

GIANT-SIZE MASTER
OF KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



2 DEC
02927

68 BIG PAGES

GIANT-SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU™

ALL-
NEW!

DEATH-TRAP
FOR SHANG-CHI!



MARTIAL ARTS MAYHEM--
MIGHTY MARVEL MAGIC!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China, retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu, and that it might be used for the murder of a man called Dr. Petrie.

"Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my name."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

DOUG MOENCH
STORY

PAUL GULACY
ART

JACK ABEL
INKS

JEAN SIMEK
P. GOLDBERG
LETTERING
COLORING

ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

"THE WIND IS, AND OFFERS
PROOF OF ITSELF... BY BEING.
MEN WHO SEEK TO PROVE
THEMSELVES THROUGH VIOLENCE...
HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM
THE CARESS OF A COOL BREEZE."

SHO...
ANUDDER KUNG
PHEW JERK,
HUH?

WELL, JUSHT
WATCH WHERE YER
SHTEPPIN',
FORTUNE-KOOKIE...

...CUZ I GOT A
GOOD OLE-FASHION
AMERICAN FIST
DAT'LL MAKE CHOP
SUSIE OUTTA YER
PAJAMAS!

THE DEVIL- DOCTOR'S TRIUMPH

CHAPTER ONE: EYES



"THE..."



"...MAN..."



"...IS..."



"...DRUNK."

"BUT WHERE I WISHED TO
EVADE HIS HOSTILITY... AND
AVOID STRIKING HIM..."



"...IT WOULD SEEM HE HAS
DEALT HIMSELF INJURY, A BLOW
INFLICTED BY THE BRUTAL
FORCE OF LIQUOR."

NOT YOU
AGAIN.



WE'VE
ALREADY
THROWN YOU
OUT OF HERE
ONCE.



HMP! SEEMS HIS EARS
ARE AS OUT AS THE
REST OF HIM.

AND YOU MUST BE THE
ONE WHO TOSSED HIM
THROUGH THE WINDOW.



I AM
SORRY. I
MERELY STOOD
IN THE
STREET--

--MINDING
YOUR OWN
BUSINESS...?

COME INSIDE,
PLEASE.

"I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO RELATE THE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT. THUS, I ENTER TO **EXPLAIN...** FOR THE WOMAN SURELY HOLDS ME RESPONSIBLE FOR BREAKING THE WINDOW OF THIS...?"

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE **DRUNK**-- I ALREADY CHECKED HIS **PULSE**.

JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES TO CHANGE MY **TOGS** AND I'LL BE RIGHT **WITH YOU**.

RIGHT... **WITH ME...?**

HUU--!

UNLESS YOU'VE ALREADY **EATEN DINNER...?**

NO... I HAVE NOT... **EATEN...**

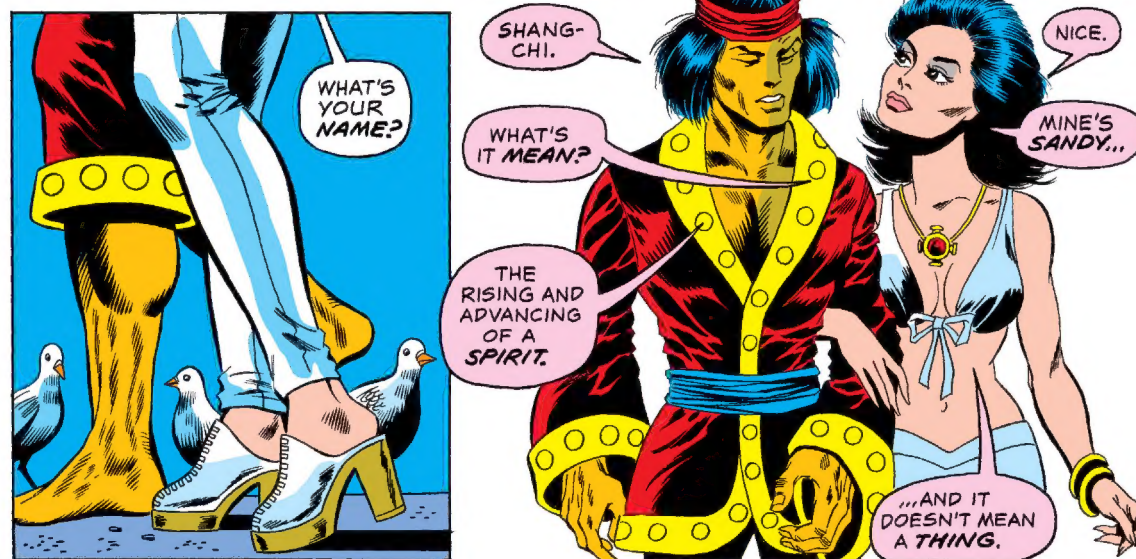
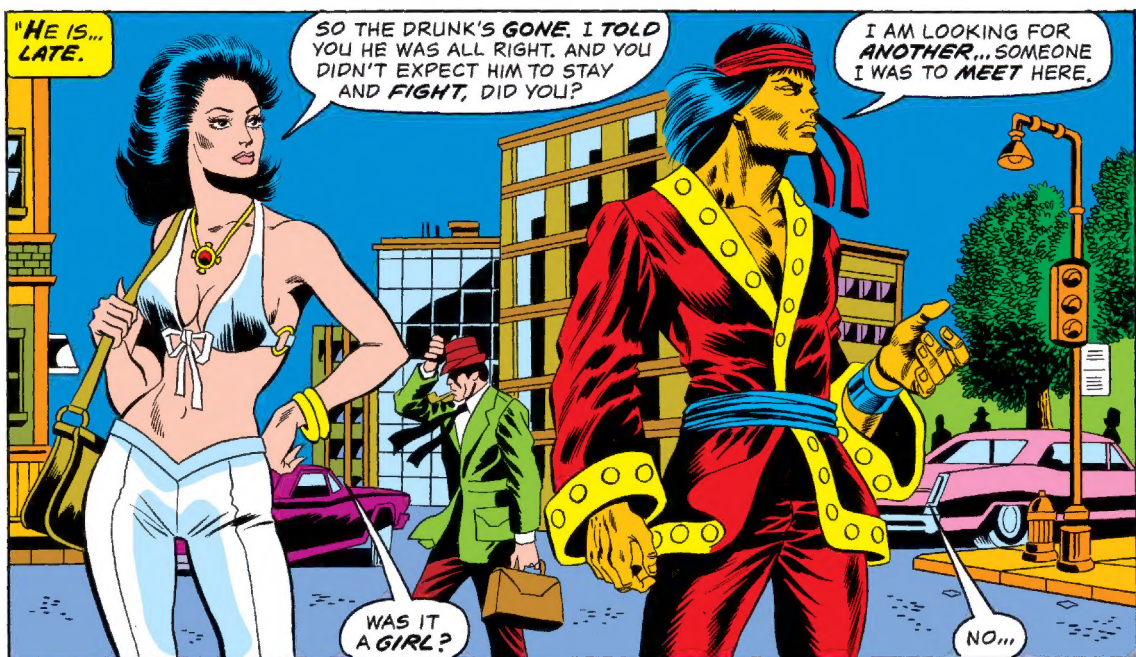
GREAT.

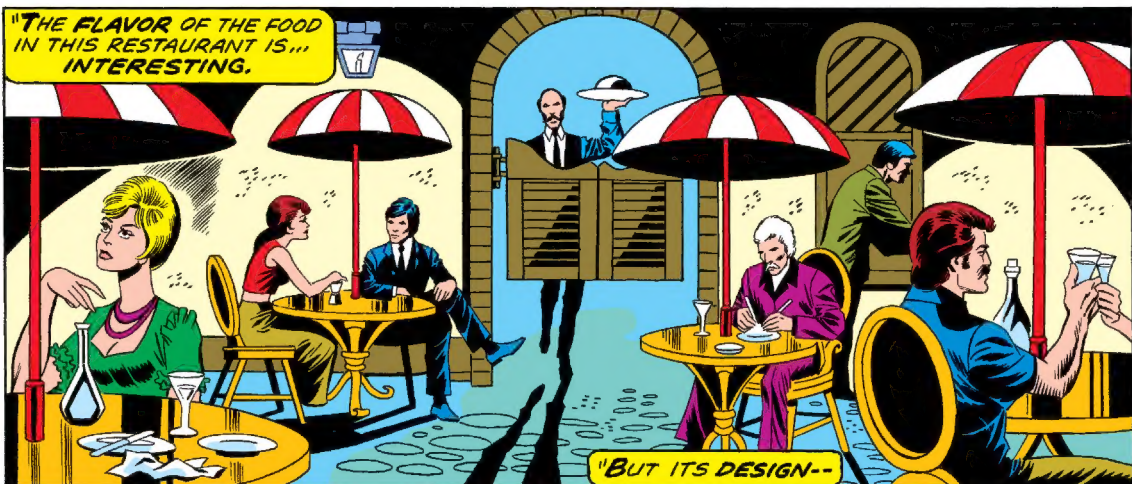
HERE, CHRIS. KEEP 'EM SWEATING OUT THEIR **MONEY'S WORTH**.

NOW JUST COUNT TO A **HUNDRED**, HANDSOME, AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY TO THE GREATEST LITTLE ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN **MANHATTAN**.

AND AFTER **THAT...** WHO KNOWS? MAYBE A WALK IN THE **PARK**.

"...??"





"THE FLAVOR OF THE FOOD
IN THIS RESTAURANT IS...
INTERESTING.

"BUT ITS DESIGN--



"-- WOULD RENDER IT
INEDIBLE.

I SEE THIS IS YOUR
FIRST EXPERIENCE
WITH PIZZA.

HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN IN
NEW YORK,
SHANG-CHI?

I AM NOT AWARE
OF THE PRECISE
PASSAGE OF TIME.

A BETTER ANSWER I
COULDN'T GET FROM BRANDO.

BUT AS MUCH AS I'M
WITH YOU IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST
CLOCK-WATCHING--



-- I THINK IT'S
TIME FOR
THE ...

CHECK,
PLEASE!



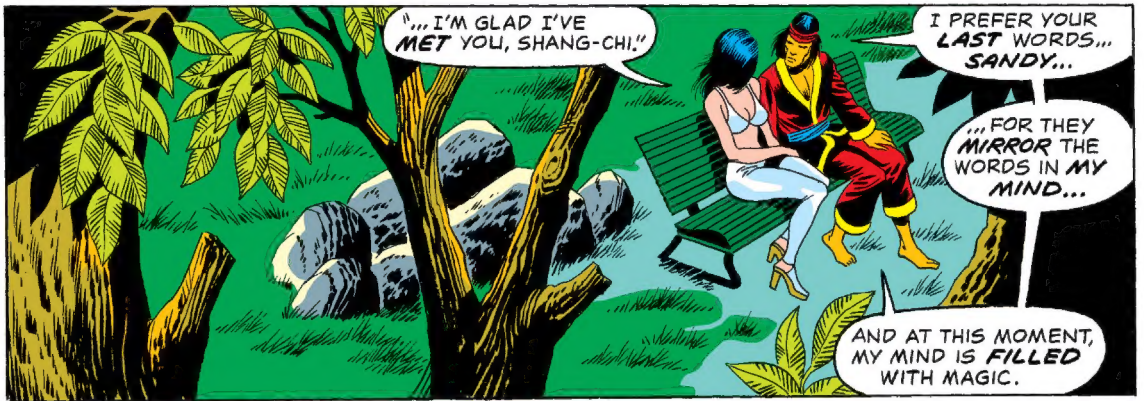
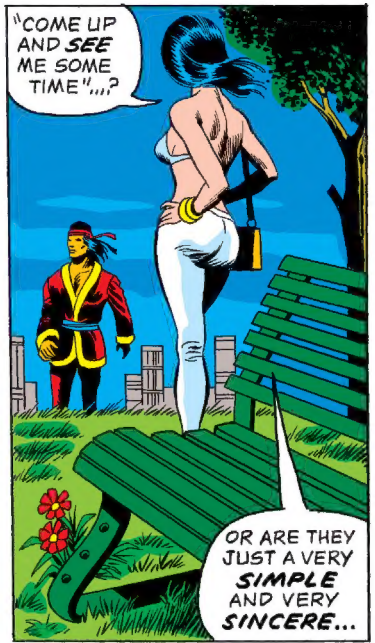
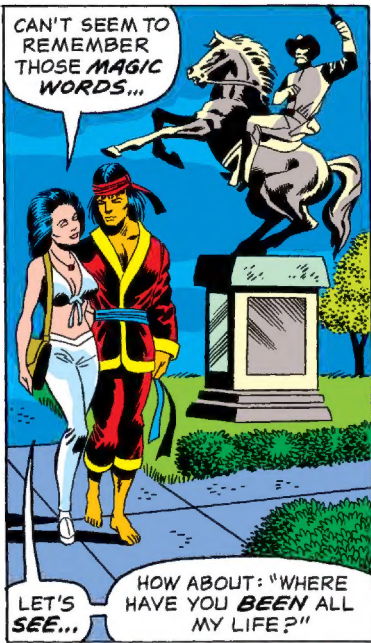
AND SINCE I DON'T
SEE ANY POCKETS
IN THOSE THREADS
OF YOURS ...

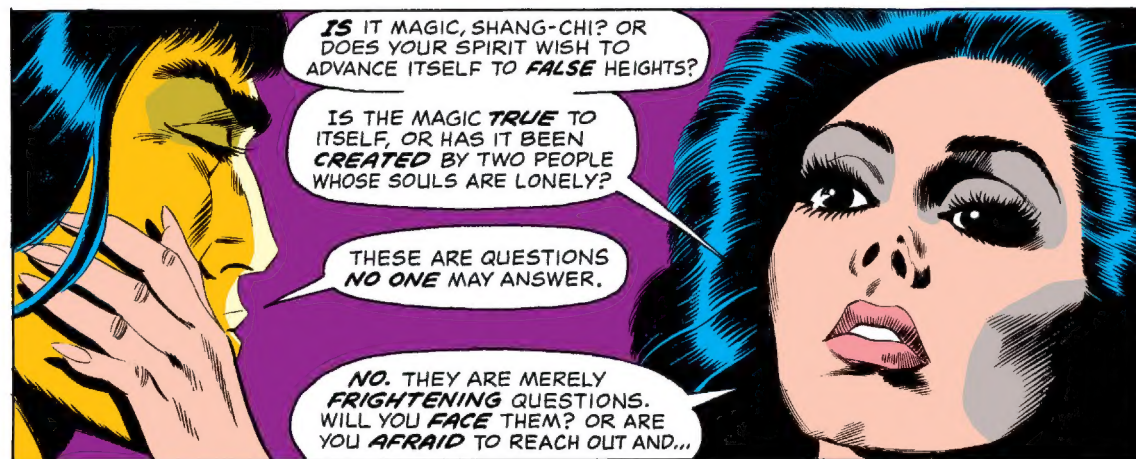


YOU CAN SKIM
A TIP OFF THE
TOP, WAITER.



NOW, WHAT WAS
THAT YOU SAID
ABOUT A WALK
IN THE PARK,
HANDSOME?











"THE GIRL **SURPRISES** ME. I HAVE MET HER IN A PLACE WHICH DEMANDS **MONEY** IN RETURN FOR THE "TEACHING" OF A SKILL WHICH MAY ONLY BE **LEARNED...** THROUGH A PROCESS OF **SELF-EFFACEMENT...**"

COME ON, HANDSOME--WE'VE GOT 'EM BY THE **TAILS** NOW!

THERE'RE ONLY **THREE LEFT--!**



"...AND YET, SHE **HAS** LEARNED."



"SHE HAS DEMONSTRATED SOPHISTICATED ACTIONS AND MANEUVERS FROM ALL FIVE BASIC STYLES OF SHAOLIN DEFENSE: THE **TIGER, DRAGON, SNAKE, LEOPARD** AND **CRANE...**"

"...BUT, ALMOST LIKE AN ANIMAL, HER DEMONSTRATION HAS BEEN--"

"--OVERZEALOUS."

IT IS **FINISHED**, SANDY... AND I THANK YOU FOR YOUR **AID**.

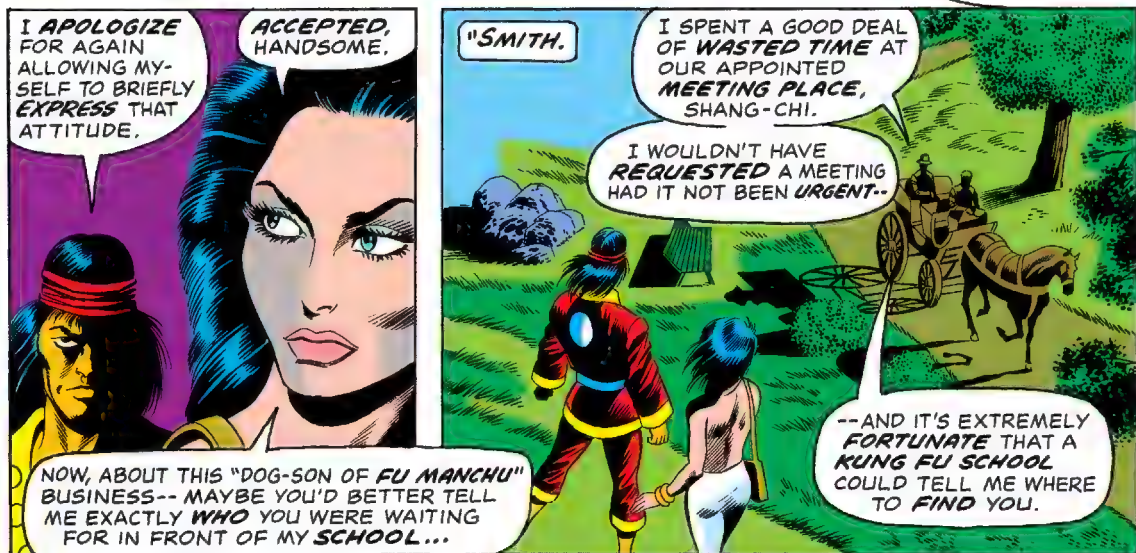
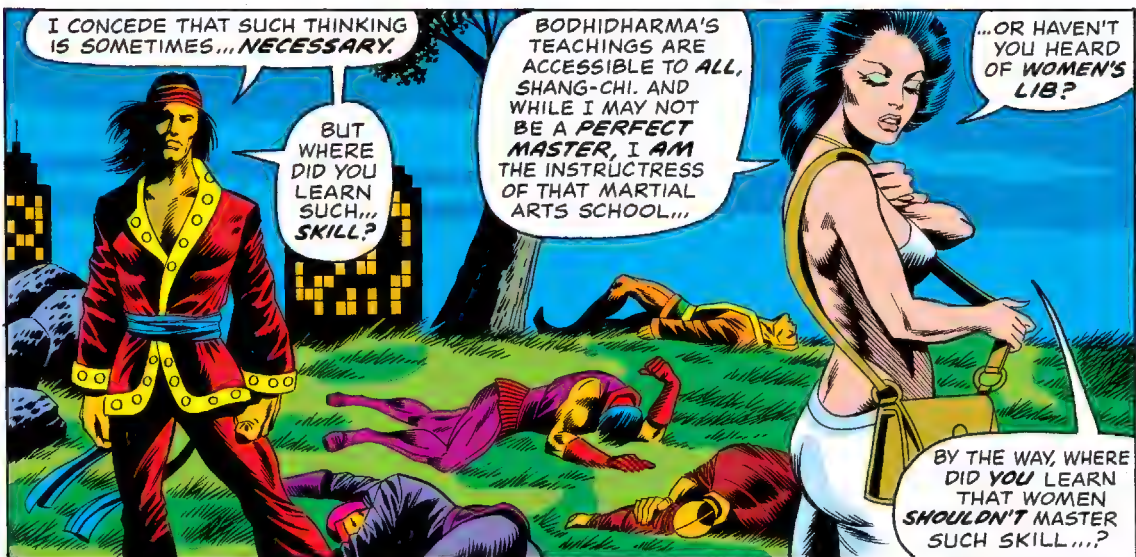
BUT THESE MEN BREATHED THE SAME **AIR** WHICH FILLS **YOU** AND **ME**.

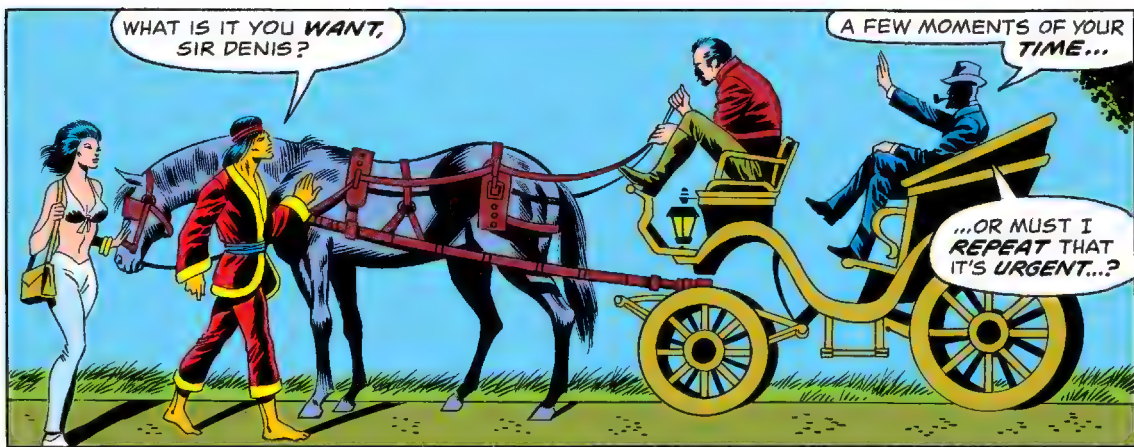
YOU FOUGHT AS THOUGH TO **CRUSH** THAT **AIR** FROM THEM... **FOREVER**.

LOOK, HANDSOME, WHEN A DUDE **ATTACKS** ME, I JUST WANT TO MAKE HIM WISH HE **HADN'T...**



"...AND TO PREVENT HIM FROM TRYING A **SECOND** TIME JUST IN CASE HE DIDN'T GET THE **HINT**."

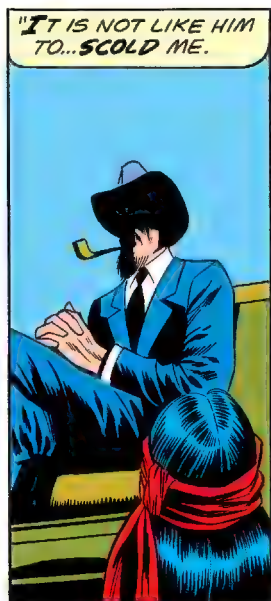




WHAT IS IT YOU **WANT**, SIR DENIS?

A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR **TIME...**

...OR MUST I **REPEAT** THAT IT'S **URGENT...**?



"IT IS NOT LIKE HIM TO...**SCOLD** ME.



SANDY... I MUST...

...GO... FOR A **TIME**.



WELL THANK **GOODNESS**, SHANG-CHI. I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D BECOME AS **IRRESPONSIBLE** AS **AMERICAN** YOUTH.

YOU MAY **PROCEED**, **BLACK JACK**.



DRIVER--!



WAIT UP!



THERE SEEMS TO BE ROOM FOR **THREE** IN HERE.

AND SINCE I NEED A LIFT TO THE STREET **ANYWAY...**

CERTAINLY, SANDY.



UH, SHANG CHI, THE MATTER I WANT TO **DISCUSS** WITH YOU IS RATHER, UH... **CONFIDENTIAL...**

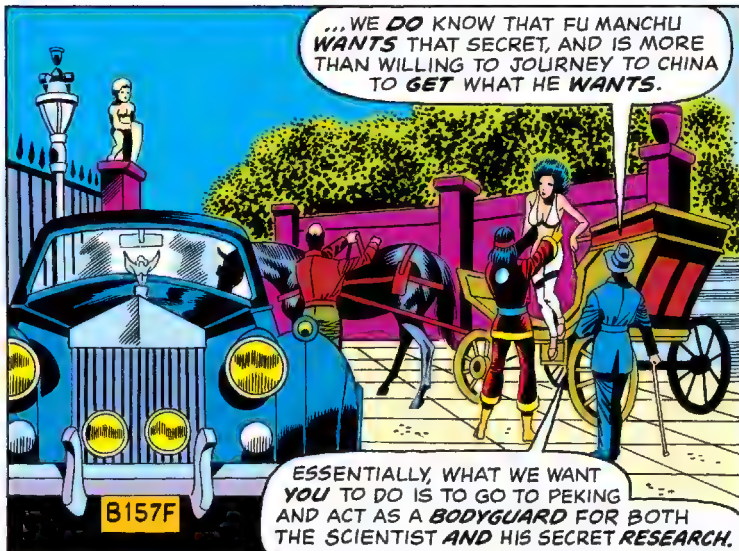
SIR DENIS NAYLAND **SMITH...** IT HONORS ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO... **SANDY**.

SHE IS A PERSON I HAVE **ALREADY** **CONFIDED** IN.

"THE RIDE IS NOT PLEASANT...
FOR SMITH IS SELDOM INVOLVED
IN PLEASANT MATTERS..."



-- SCIENTIST
IN CHINA, SHANG-
CHI. AND WHILE WE
DON'T KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT TYPE OF
SECRET PROJECT
HE'S WORKING
ON...



... WE DO KNOW THAT FU MANCHU
WANTS THAT SECRET, AND IS MORE
THAN WILLING TO JOURNEY TO CHINA
TO GET WHAT HE WANTS.

ESSENTIALLY, WHAT WE WANT
YOU TO DO IS TO GO TO PEKING
AND ACT AS A BODYGUARD FOR BOTH
THE SCIENTIST AND HIS SECRET RESEARCH.



YOU SEE, DR. LING IS PLANNING
TO DEFECT TO OUR SIDE. HIS
RESEARCH MIGHT HELP THIS
COUNTRY--AND THE WHOLE
WORLD--A GREAT DEAL.

WILL YOU
DO IT...

I...



HEY, HANDSOME...
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE
INVOLVED IN SOME
PRETTY HEAVY STUFF,
AND IF YOU'VE
ALREADY COMMITTED
YOURSELF--

--I WOULDN'T
WANT YOU
HESITATING
BECAUSE
OF ME.



BESIDES, WE'LL
MEET AGAIN...

YOU CAN
BET ON IT.



"I DO NOT
REPLY..."

"... FOR I HAVE LEARNED
THAT GAMBLING IS A PATH
FOLLOWED BY FOOLS.



ARE YOU COMING,
SHANG-CHI?

WE HAVEN'T
GOT MUCH
TIME.



"I MAKE THE TIME, TO WATCH
...UNTIL I SEE NOTHING BUT--

--THE
DISTANCE.

"SMITH'S WORDS ARE DESPERATE, AND WOULD RACE THE SPEED OF HIS CAR. BUT MY MIND PERCEIVES HIS WORDS FROM A DISTANCE... FOR I FIND MYSELF DWELLING ON A PLANE OF... DISTRACTION.

IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE REACH THE AIRPORT IN TIME FOR **THIS FLIGHT**, SHANG-CHI. THERE AREN'T **MANY** SCHEDULED FOR **PEKING AIRPORT**, YOU KNOW.

SEVERAL OF OUR AGENTS WILL **ALSO** BE ABOARD, POSING AS **LEGITIMATE** PASSENGERS, THEY'VE BEEN BRIEFED TO FUNCTION AS THE **REAL** PASSENGERS WOULD-- ONCE THEY ARRIVE IN **PEKING**.

AFTER THAT, THEY'LL BE ASSISTING IN DR. LING'S UNDERCOVER **DEFECTION**-- THEREBY SERVING A **SUPPLEMENTAL** PURPOSE. BUT RIGHT **NOW**, THEIR **IMMEDIATE** OBJECTIVE IS AID TO **YOU**...

BECAUSE OF THE CRUCIAL **TIME FACTOR** INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION, **THEY** ARE AWARE OF DETAILS THAT EVEN **I** HAVEN'T HEARD YET.

CHAPTER 2

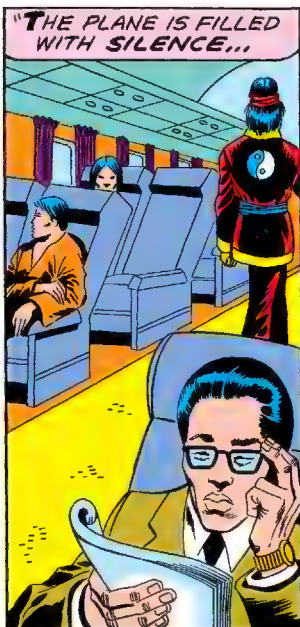
AIR

"SMITH'S DISCOURSE EXTENDS TO OUR **DESTINATION**, PERSISTING EVEN AS I BOARD THE CRAFT..."

NOW DON'T FORGET-- YOU'LL RECEIVE **FURTHER** INSTRUCTIONS FROM OUR AGENTS ABOARD THE **PLANE**, EN ROUTE TO **PEKING**.

BLACK JACK AND I WILL **RENDEZVOUS** WITH YOU IN CHINA AS SOON AS **POSSIBLE**.

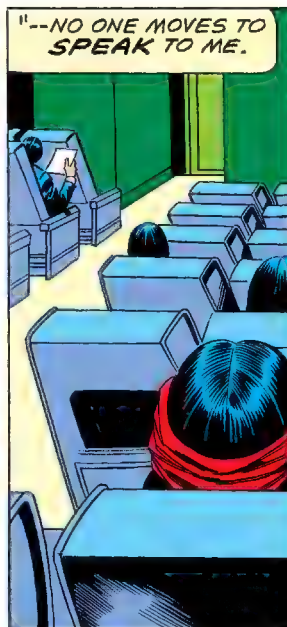
AND... BE **CAREFUL**, LAD-- FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE.



"THE PLANE IS FILLED WITH SILENCE..."



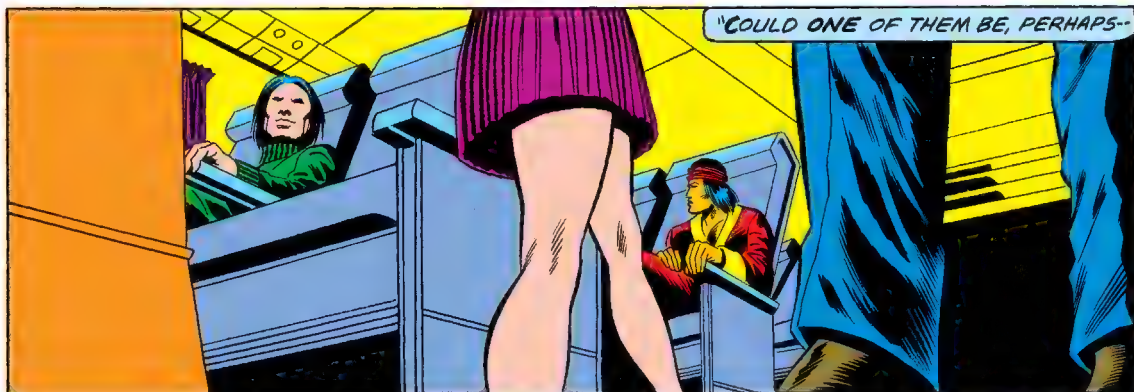
"...AND EVEN AFTER IT HAS TAKEN WING--"



"--NO ONE MOVES TO SPEAK TO ME."



"I WONDER: WHICH OF THESE PEOPLE ARE SMITH'S AGENTS?"

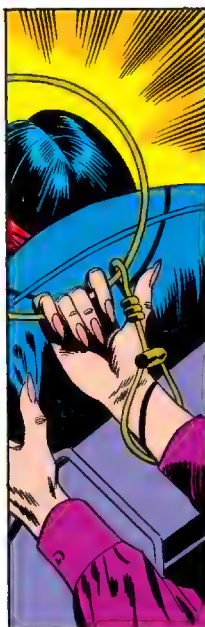


"COULD ONE OF THEM BE, PERHAPS--"



"--THE STEWARDESS...?"

WOULD YOU LIKE A PILLOW, SIR? TO CUSHION YOUR--

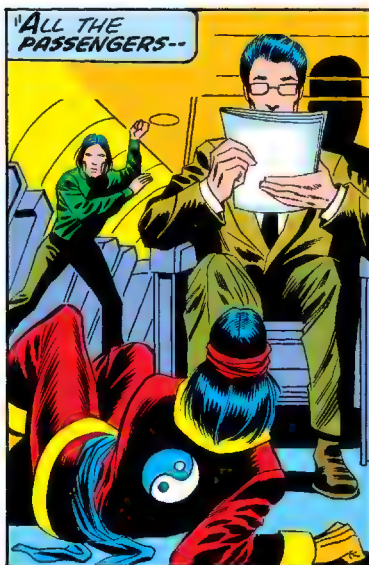
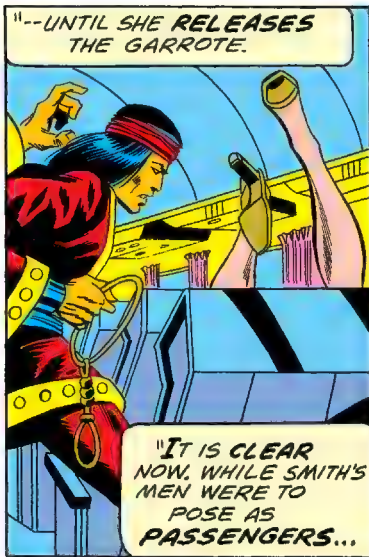
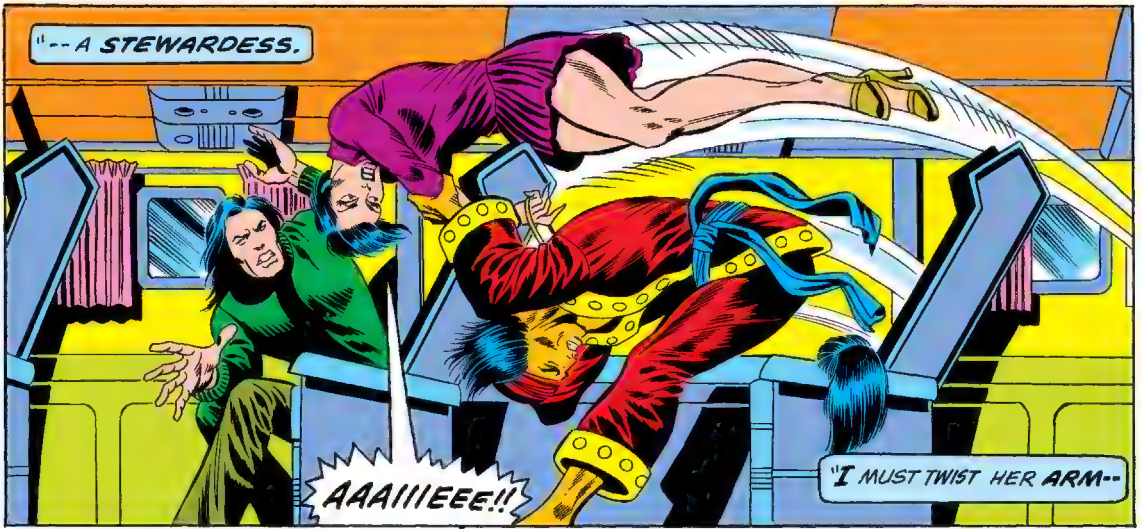


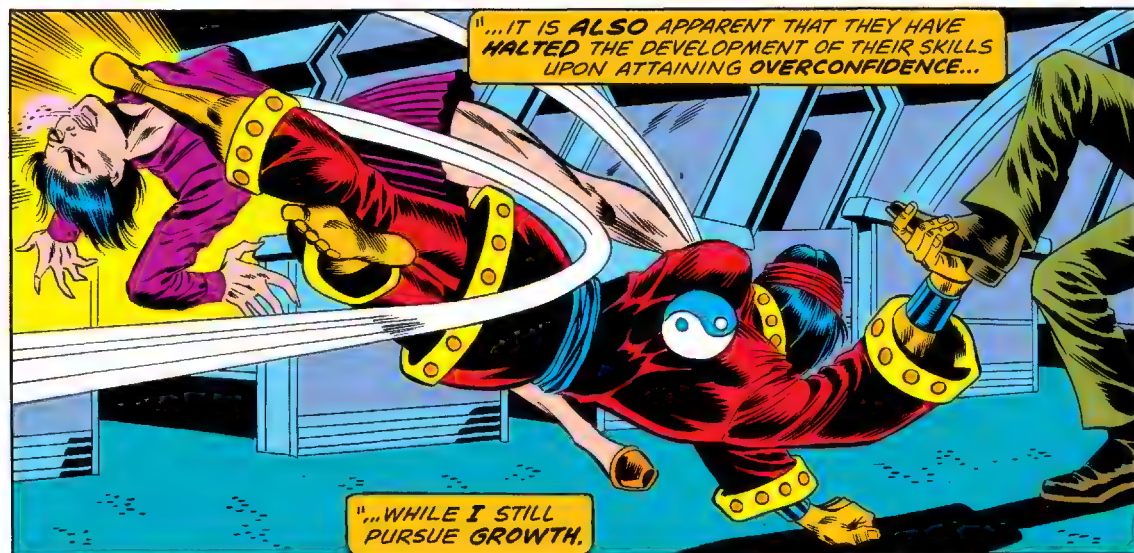
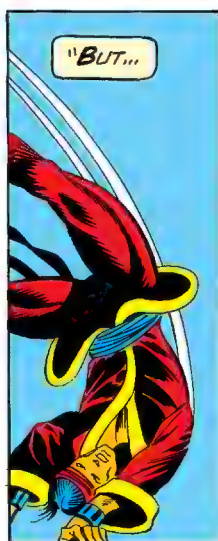
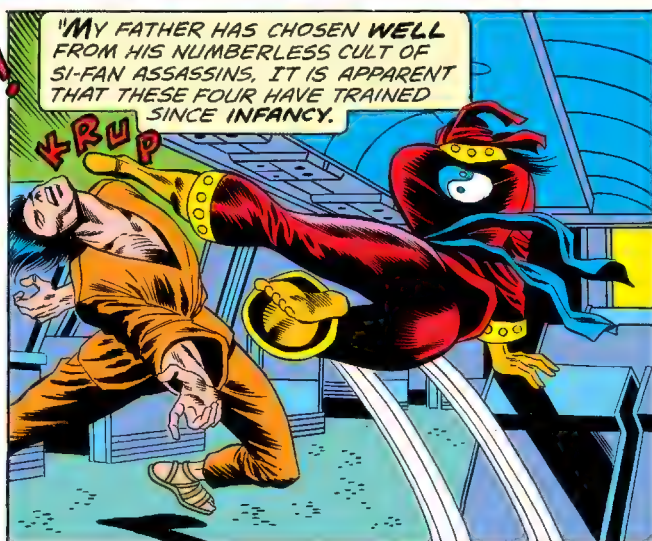
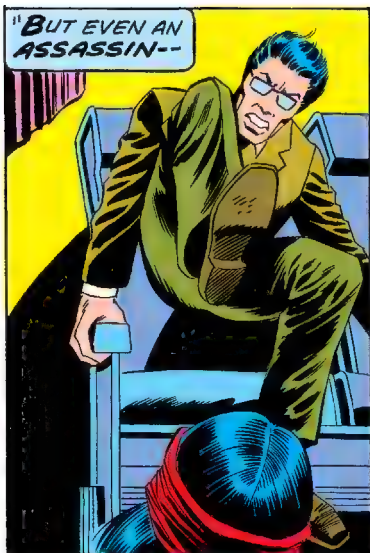
--NECK!

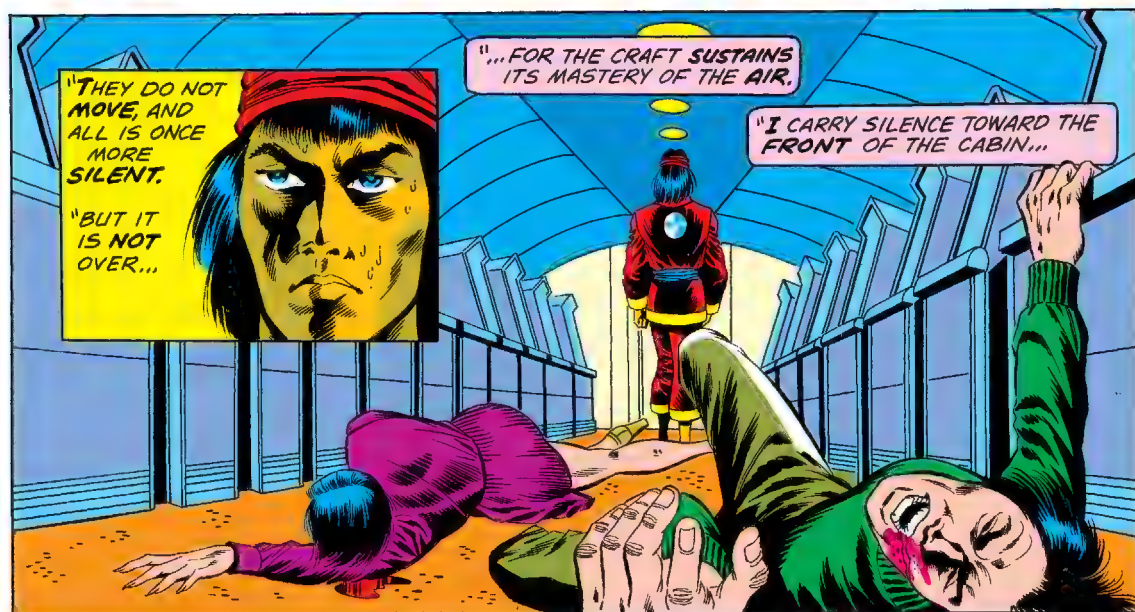
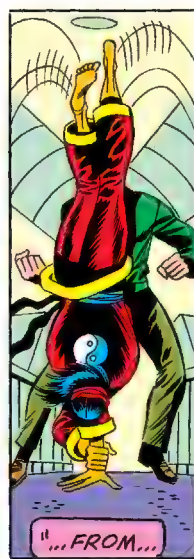
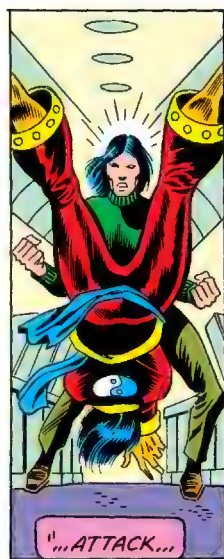
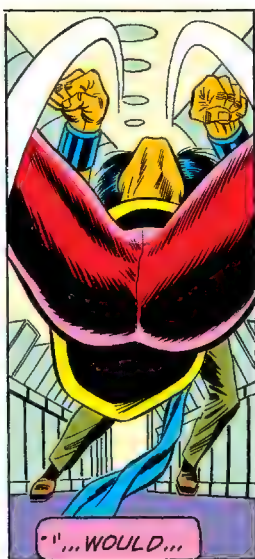
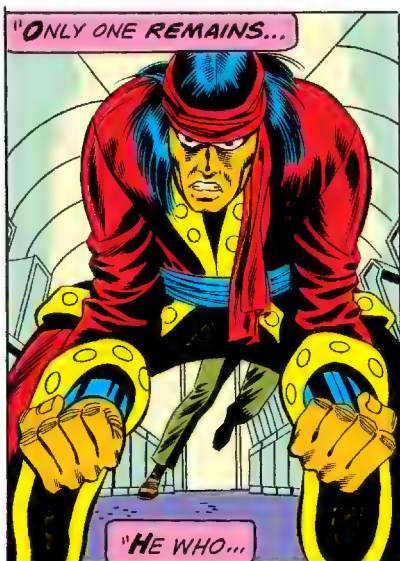
HAHG-K-K!!

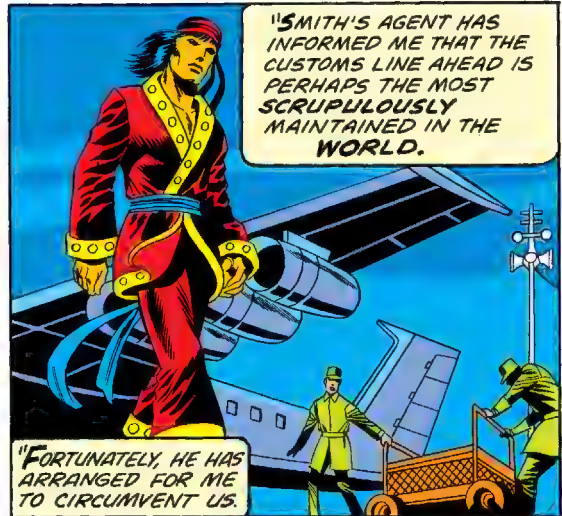
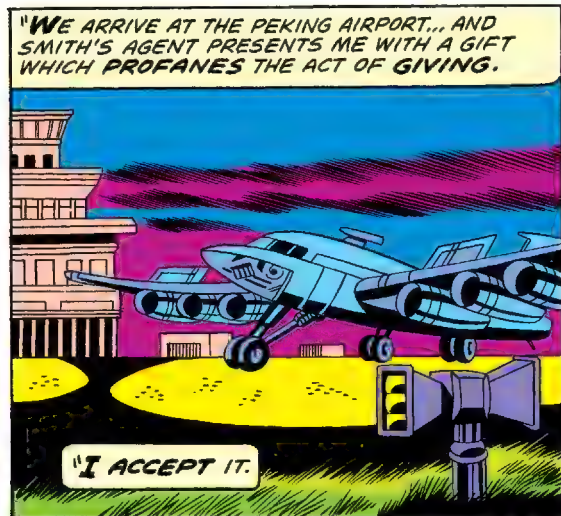
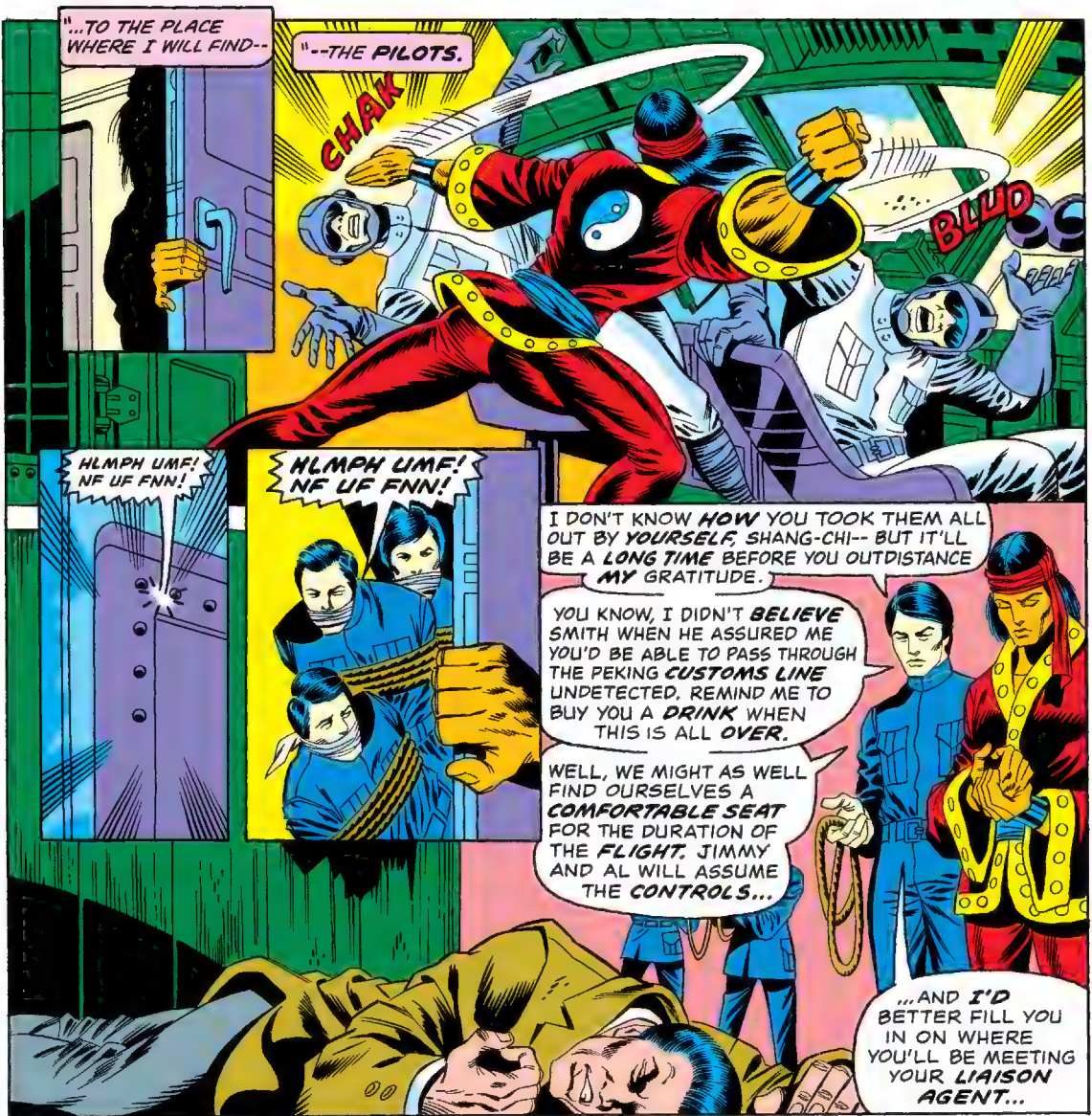


"SHE IS NOT--"







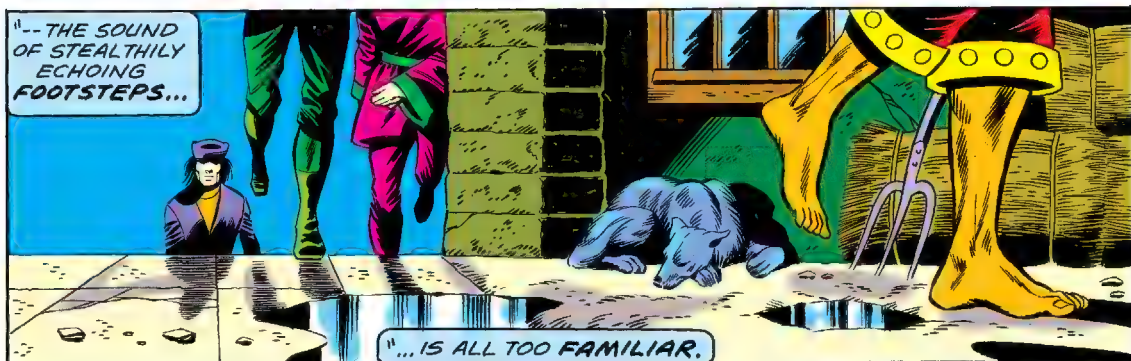


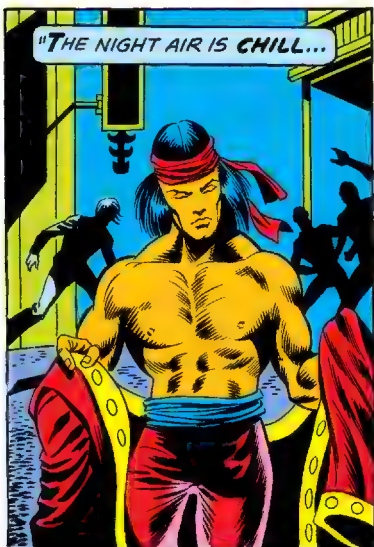
DECEIT

CHAPTER
3

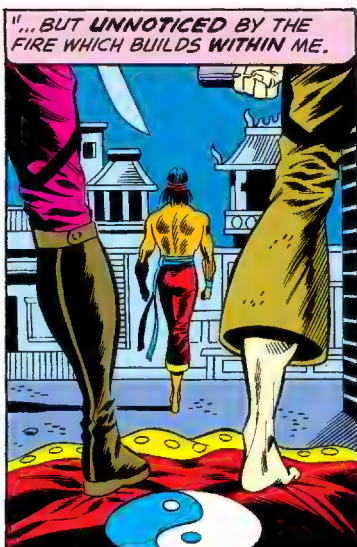


"--THE SOUND
OF STEALTHILY
ECHOING
FOOTSTEPS..."





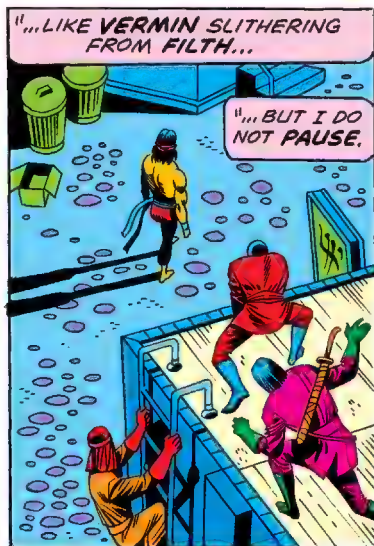
"THE NIGHT AIR IS CHILL..."



"...BUT UNNOTICED BY THE FIRE WHICH BUILDS WITHIN ME."



"I LISTEN TO THE SOFT SOUNDS OF DEATH AWAKENING..."



"...LIKE VERMIN SLITHERING FROM FILTH..."

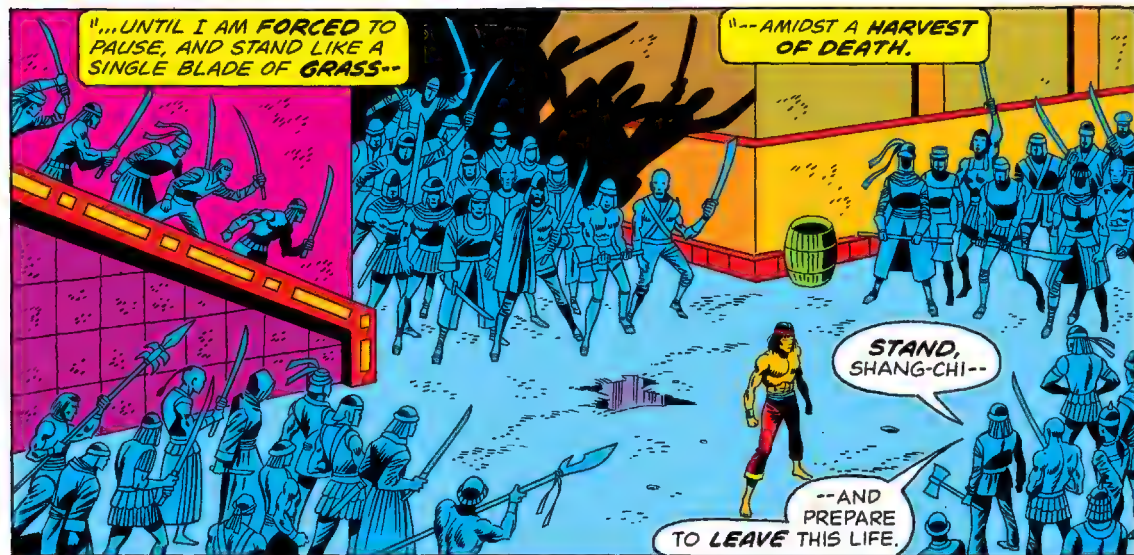
"...BUT I DO NOT PAUSE."



"SMITH'S LIAISON AGENT AWAITS ME AT THE PRESCRIBED LOCATION."



"I MUST APPROACH THAT LOCATION..."



"...UNTIL I AM FORCED TO PAUSE, AND STAND LIKE A SINGLE BLADE OF GRASS--"

"--AMIDST A HARVEST OF DEATH."

STAND, SHANG-CHI--

--AND PREPARE TO LEAVE THIS LIFE.

"I FALL TO A CROUCH, SLIDING THE NUNCHAKU STICKS FROM MY SASH."

"I HAVE COME TO REJECT WEAPONS AS CRUTCHES FIT ONLY FOR THOSE WEAK IN BODY AND SPIRIT... AND HAVE NOT TURNED TO THE NUNCHAKU SINCE FACING MIDNIGHT, HE WHO HAD BEEN MY BROTHER M'NAI...*

"AND THIS FACT, FAR MORE THAN THE ASSASSINS THEMSELVES--

"...BUT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE A GIFT WHICH PROFANES THE ACT OF GIVING...

"...I HAVE ACCEPTED THEM AS NECESSARY."

MADNESS RULES HIS SPIRIT--!

HE WOULD OPPOSE US ALL!!

"--FILLS--

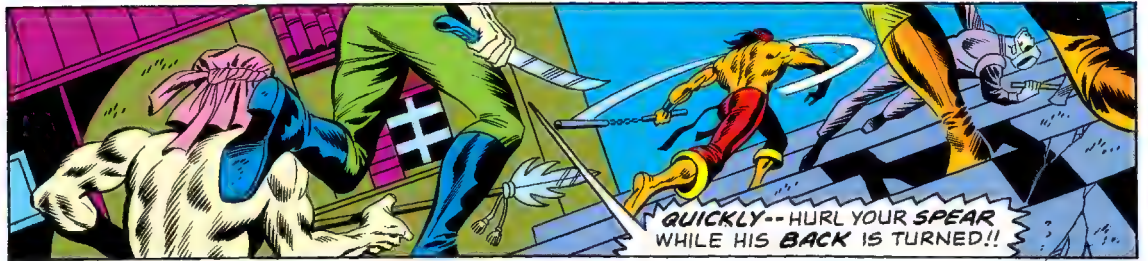
"--ME--

"--WITH--

"--ANGER.

HIIEEEE!!

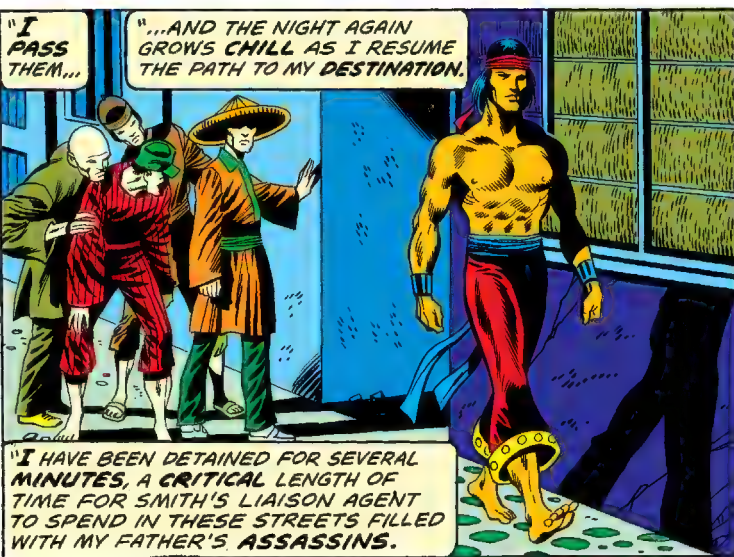
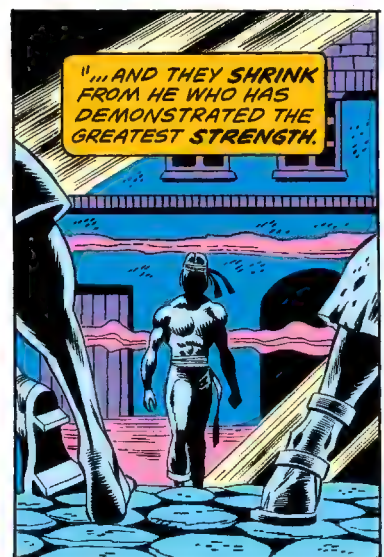
*SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #16--ROY.



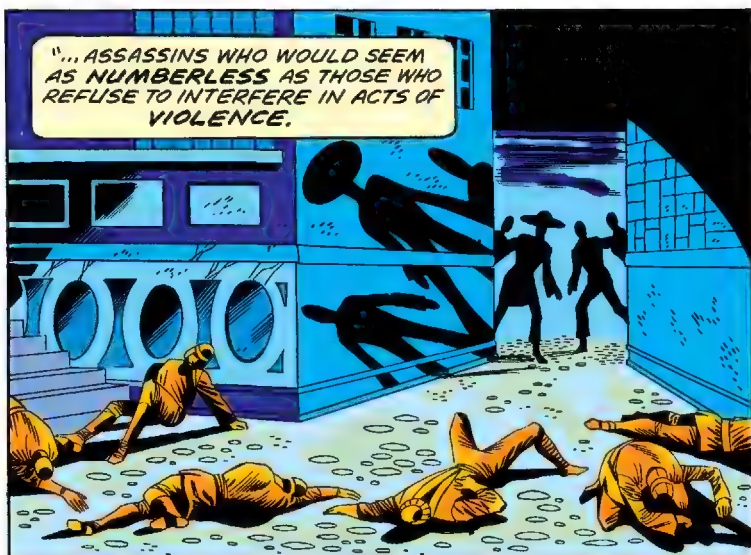


"A NUMBER OF THE ASSASSINS BEGIN FLEEING NOW, PREFERRING TO FACE MY FATHER RATHER THAN THE FURY WHICH FILLS ME. OTHERS FALL, CLEARING THE PATH OF MY SIGHT... AND I AM ABLE TO SEE TO THE MOUTH OF THIS ALLEY..."

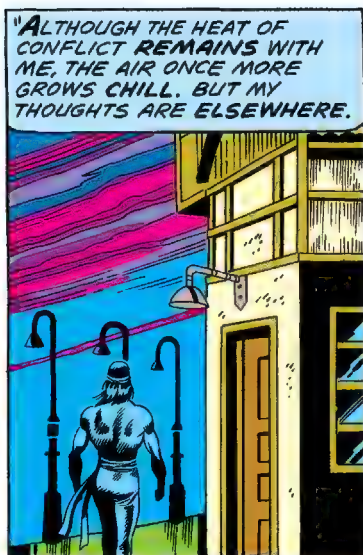
"...WHERE A SMALL CROWD OF CITIZENS HAS GATHERED. THEY ARE MUCH LIKE THOSE WHO INHABIT THE PLACE CALLED NEW YORK..."



"I HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, A CRITICAL LENGTH OF TIME FOR SMITH'S LIAISON AGENT TO SPEND IN THESE STREETS FILLED WITH MY FATHER'S ASSASSINS."



"...ASSASSINS WHO WOULD SEEM AS NUMBERLESS AS THOSE WHO REFUSE TO INTERFERE IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE."



"ALTHOUGH THE HEAT OF CONFLICT REMAINS WITH ME, THE AIR ONCE MORE GROWS CHILL. BUT MY THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE."



"...AND FOR A MOMENT THERE IS MAGIC IN THIS NIGHT..."



"...FLOATING..."



"...IN THE..."



"...AIR."



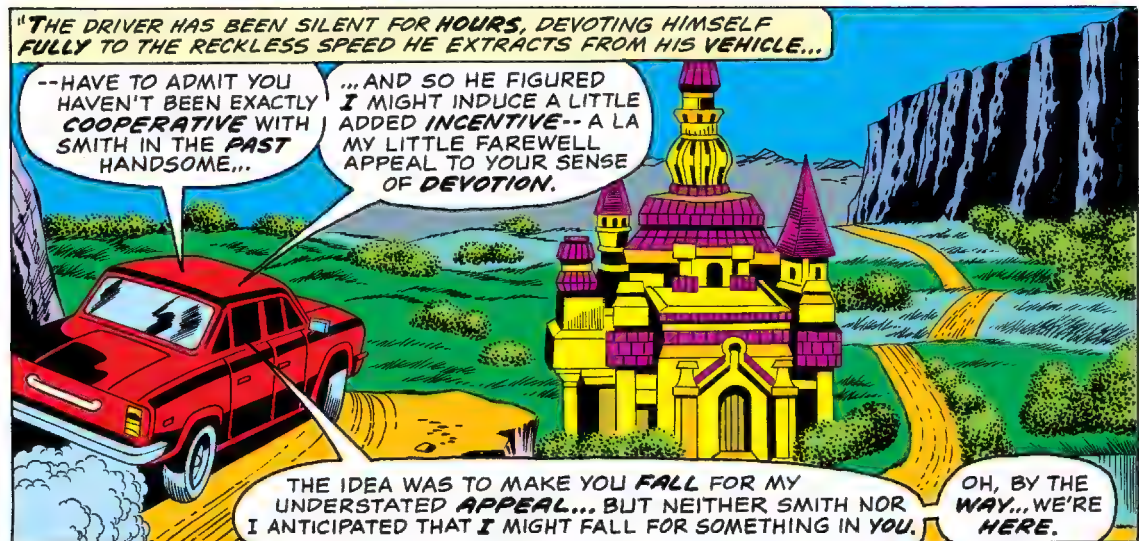
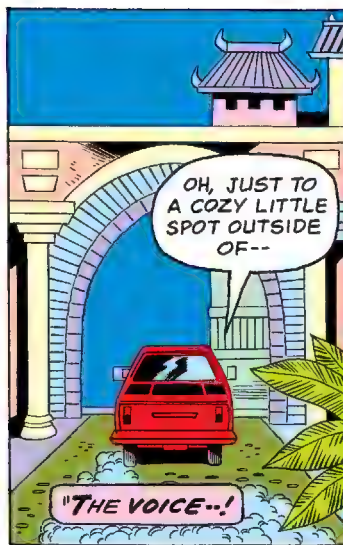
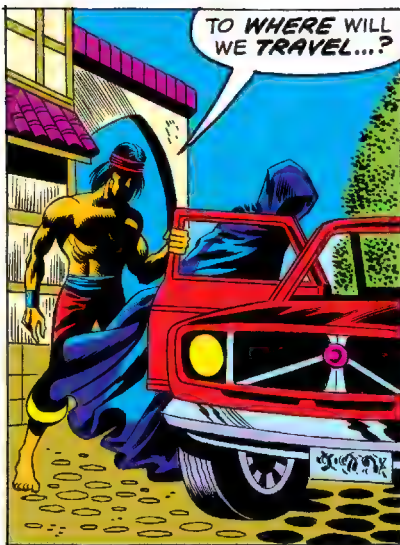
"I HAVE REACHED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT, BUT THERE IS NO ONE--"

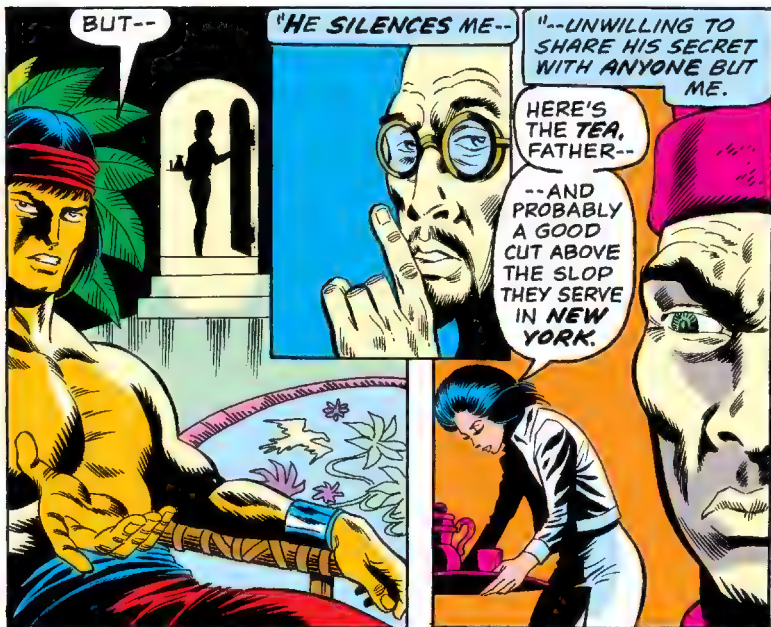
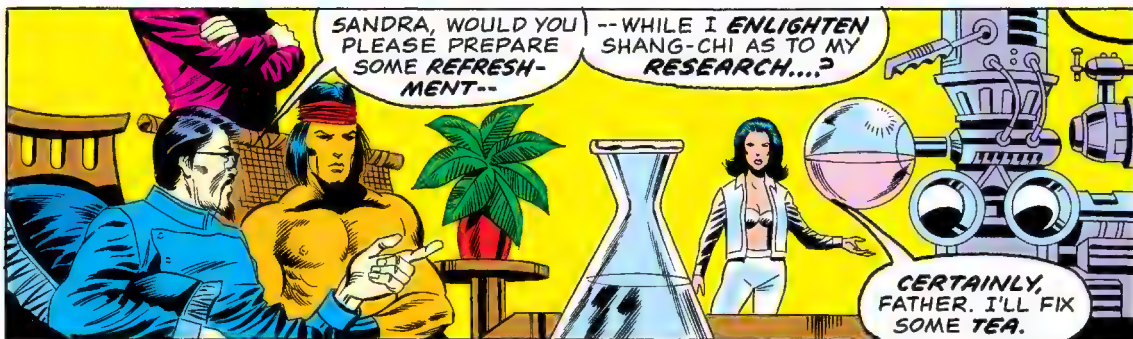
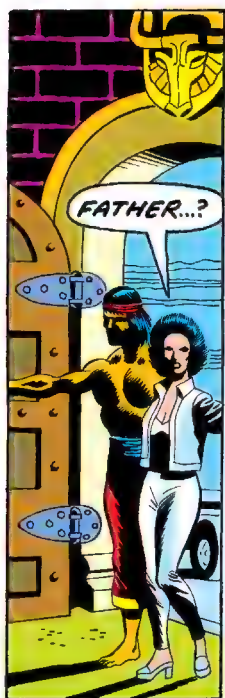
PSST!

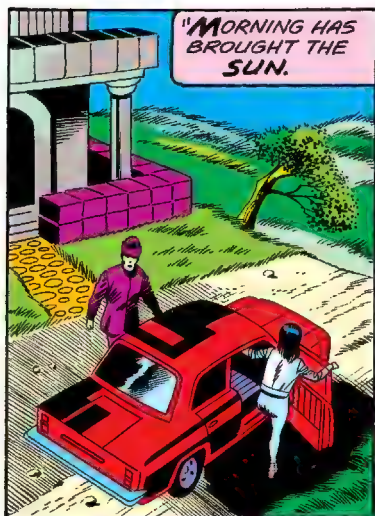


"I FOLLOW, AND AS THE ROBED AGENT PASSES THROUGH AN ANCIENT ARCHWAY..."

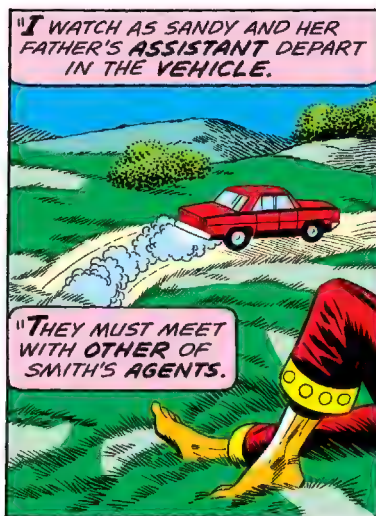
"...I AM REMINDED OF THE DISTANCE WHICH SEPARATES ME FROM A SIMPLE PARK BENCH."





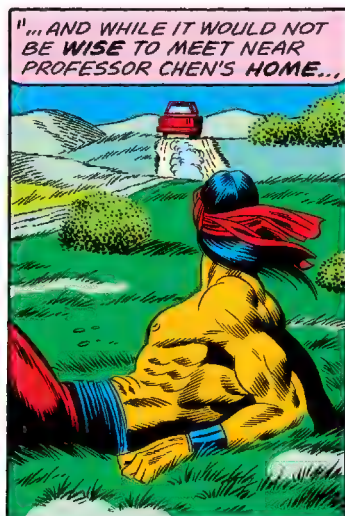


"MORNING HAS BROUGHT THE SUN.

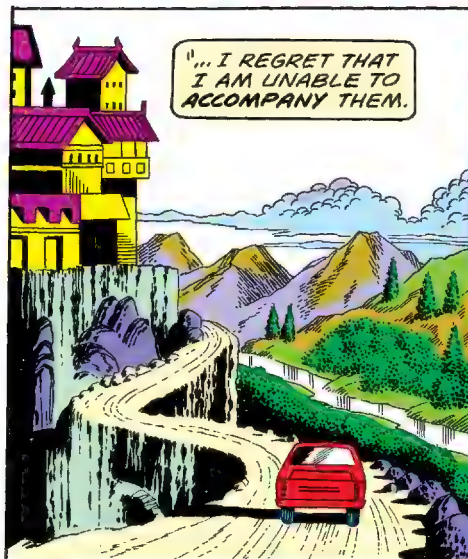


"I WATCH AS SANDY AND HER FATHER'S ASSISTANT DEPART IN THE VEHICLE.

"THEY MUST MEET WITH OTHER OF SMITH'S AGENTS.



"...AND WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO MEET NEAR PROFESSOR CHEN'S HOME...



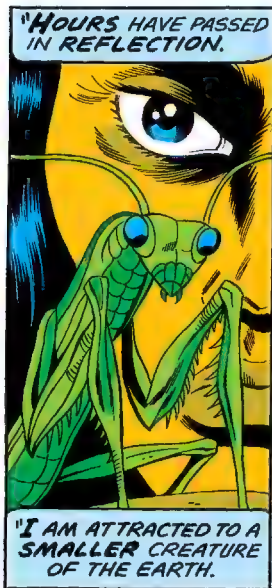
"... I REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO ACCOMPANY THEM.



REMOVE HER FROM THE BACK--

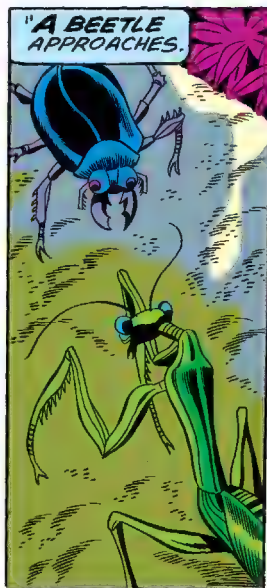


-- WHILE I REPORT TO OUR HONORED MASTER.

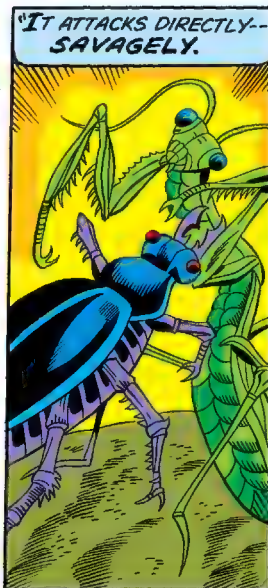


"HOURS HAVE PASSED IN REFLECTION.

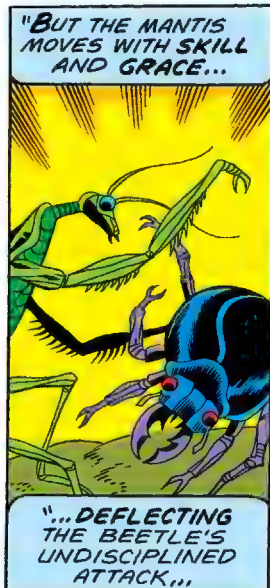
"I AM ATTRACTED TO A SMALLER CREATURE OF THE EARTH.



"A BEETLE APPROACHES.

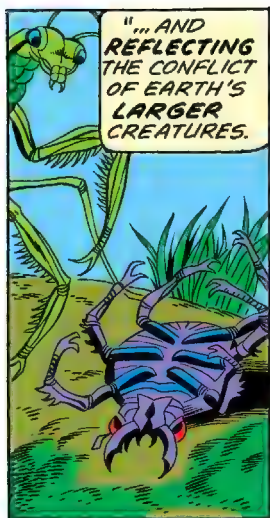


"IT ATTACKS DIRECTLY-- SAVAGELY.

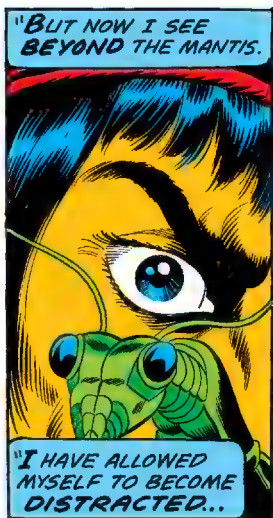


"BUT THE MANTIS MOVES WITH SKILL AND GRACE...

"... DEFLECTING THE BEETLE'S UNDISCIPLINED ATTACK..."

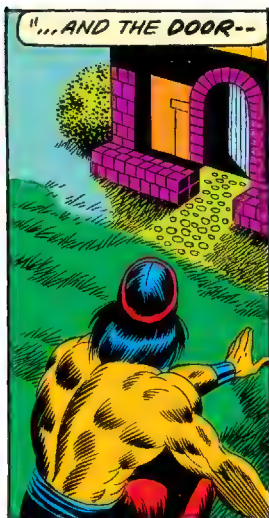


"...AND REFLECTING THE CONFLICT OF EARTH'S LARGER CREATURES.



"BUT NOW I SEE BEYOND THE MANTIS.

"I HAVE ALLOWED MYSELF TO BECOME DISTRACTED..



"...AND THE DOOR--



"--HAS BEEN OPENED.



"INSIDE, THE MAN I WAS TO PROTECT--

"--HAS CEREMONIALLY SLAIN HIMSELF--!



YES... A PITY HE HEARD MY APPROACH.



"MY FATH--

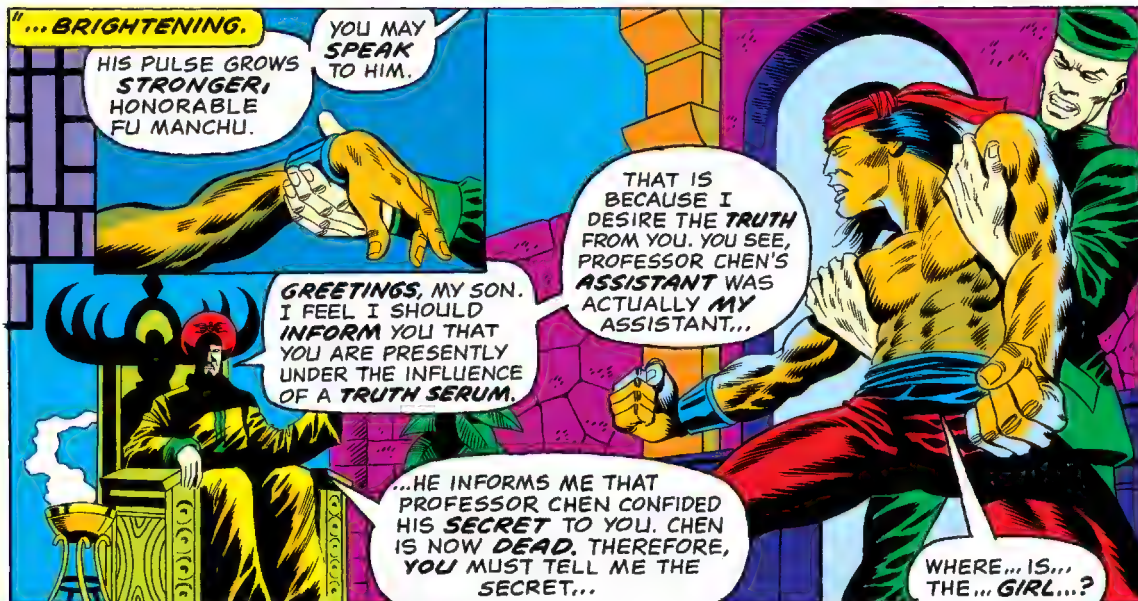
WHAK!

UHN!



BRING HIM...
...TO THE
FORTRESS.

"DARKNESS...



"...BRIGHTENING.

HIS PULSE GROWS STRONGER, HONORABLE FU MANCHU.

YOU MAY SPEAK TO HIM.

GREETINGS, MY SON. I FEEL I SHOULD INFORM YOU THAT YOU ARE PRESENTLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A TRUTH SERUM.

THAT IS BECAUSE I DESIRE THE TRUTH FROM YOU. YOU SEE, PROFESSOR CHEN'S ASSISTANT WAS ACTUALLY MY ASSISTANT...

...HE INFORMS ME THAT PROFESSOR CHEN CONFIDED HIS SECRET TO YOU. CHEN IS NOW DEAD. THEREFORE, YOU MUST TELL ME THE SECRET...

WHERE... IS... THE... GIRL...?



YOUR
SELFLESSNESS
SICKENS ME,
SHANG-CHI.



THUS...



I MUST **FORCE**
YOU TO GROW
CONCERNED FOR
YOURSELF.

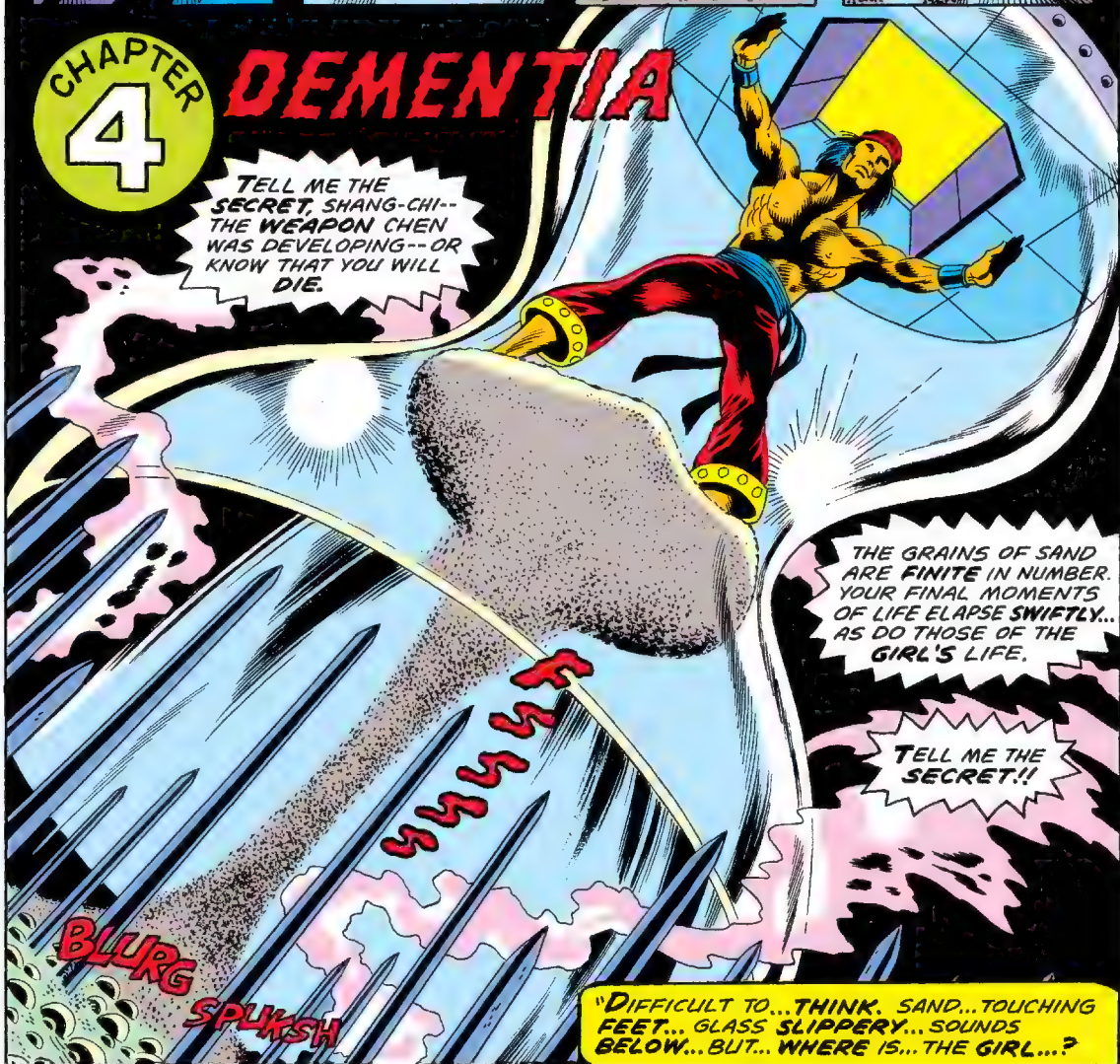


BY PLACING YOU
IN MOST **INGENIOUS**
PERIL.

CHAPTER 4

DEMENTIA

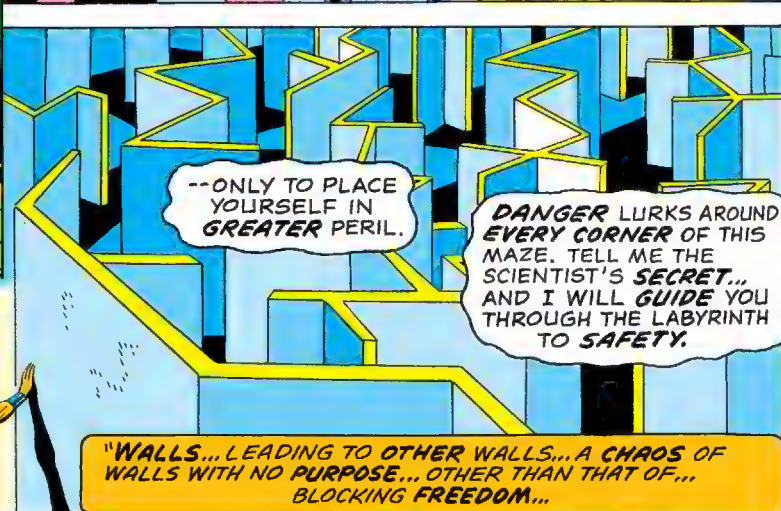
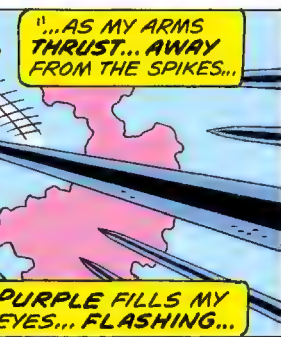
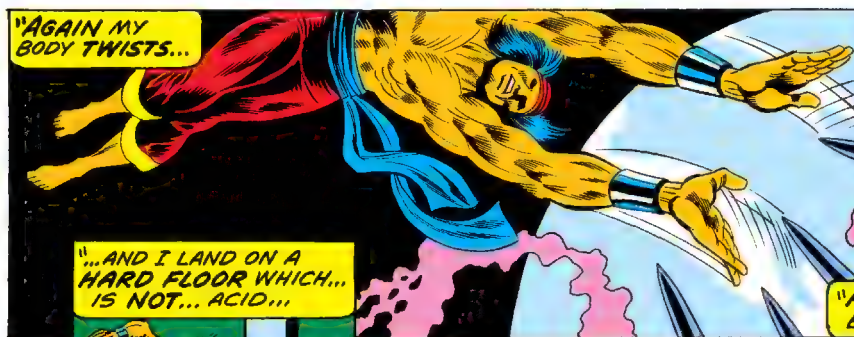
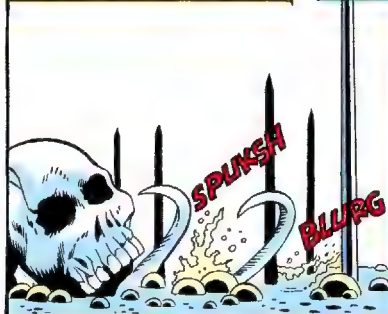
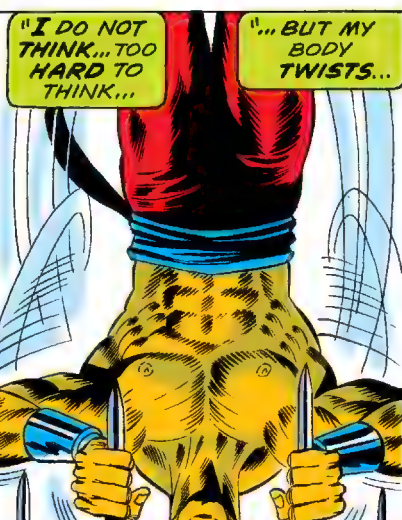
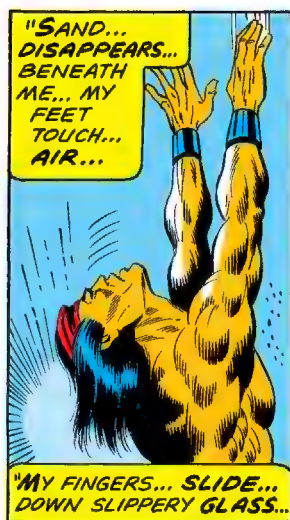
TELL ME THE
SECRET, SHANG-CHI--
THE WEAPON CHEN
WAS DEVELOPING--OR
KNOW THAT YOU WILL
DIE.



THE GRAINS OF SAND
ARE FINITE IN NUMBER.
YOUR FINAL MOMENTS
OF LIFE ELAPSE SWIFTLY...
AS DO THOSE OF THE
GIRL'S LIFE.

TELL ME THE
SECRET!!

"DIFFICULT TO...THINK. SAND...TOUCHING
FEET... GLASS SLIPPERY... SOUNDS
BELOW... BUT... WHERE IS... THE GIRL...?"



"MUST FIND
FREEDOM... MUST
FIND THE GIRL...
SANDY..."



"I ENTER
THE MAZE..."



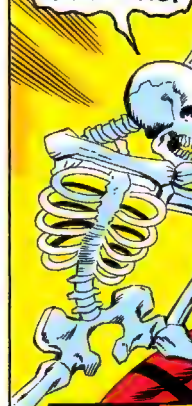
"...TO FACE
NAKED WHITE...
DEATH..."

THE SECRET,
SHANG-CHI--
WHAT IS THE
SECRET?



"AGAIN... THE VOICE OF... MY FATHER..."

TELL US THE
SECRET-- OR
YOUR BONES
WILL MATE
WITH OURS!



"DEATH ATTACKS...
MY SKULL HITS THE
WALL..."

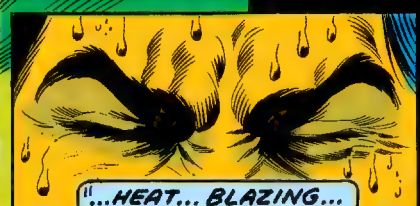
KROK

"...AND
FILLS
WITH
ANGER."

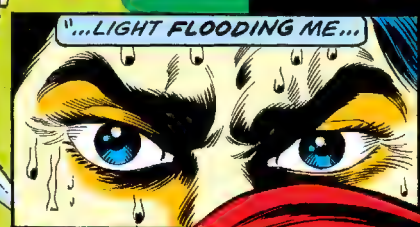
"I STRIKE... SHATTERING THE
WHISPERING WHITE DEATH..."



"...BRINGING LIFE TO THREE LIGHTS..."



"...HEAT... BLAZING..."



"...LIGHT FLOODING ME..."

"...PAINTING MY
SHADOWS ON
THE WALLS..."

"THE SHADOWS LIVE...
FORCING ME TO BATTLE
THEM..."

THE SECRET,
SHANG-CHI--
WHAT IS THE
SECRET?!



"MY FATHER SPEAKS...
THROUGH MY
SHADOWS..."

"THE SHADOWS ARE GONE...
HAVE I DEFEATED THEM?
WHERE IS THE GIRL?"

"DOES HE KNOW... THERE IS FIRE IN MY VEINS...?"

THE SCIENTIST WAS ENGAGED IN **SECRET RESEARCH**, SHANG-CHI. HE **TOLD** YOU HIS SECRET. IT WAS A **WEAPON**, WASN'T IT? A NEW STRAIN OF **BACTERIA**...?

YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME FOR **LONG**, SHANG-CHI. YOUR **MIND** DWELLS IN **MADNESS**. YOUR **FLESH** SHALL SOON **ROT** IN THE STINKING EARTH. I **CONTROL** YOUR MIND, SHANG-CHI, AND I SHALL **POUR** IT INTO THE **DEPTHS** OF DEMENTIA IF YOU DO NOT TELL ME THE SECRET!

"PROFESSOR CHEN... SANDY'S FATHER... HE **LEANED** TO ME... **WHISPERED**... I MUST NOT TELL... HIS SECRET..."

"A WIND HOWLS THROUGH THE PORES OF MY SKIN AND WRAPS MY HEART IN A HURRICANE. MY BLOWS GLOW PURPLE AND PAIN SPURTS FROM MY FINGERTIPS..."

"LIZARDS SCALE MY LEGS AND COVER ME IN SLIME."

"A SNAKE ENTERS MY MOUTH ON A PARK BENCH."

"THE BENCH MELTS AND RISES TO SWALLOW US. WE ARE IN THE BELLY OF AN ASSASSIN. THE ASSASSIN SWALLOWS POISON."

"WE MELT AND DISSOLVE INTO A VAST PLANE OF GREAT DISTANCE SWEEPED BY WINDS OF FIRE AND ICE."

"THERE IS TORMENT AND DEPRAVITY SEALED IN THE PLANE WE HAVE BECOME. WE CONSUME IT. IT CONSUMES US. NAKED DEATH LEERS. HOPE DIES."

"NO. THIS IS FALSE. TRUTH SERUM... HALLUCINATIONS... I AM MAD FOR A TIME... AND THE MAZE REAPPEARS..."

"I HAVE RE-ENTERED THE MAZE.



SLOWLY, I SAW MY FIRST FAN THE FIRST TIME."



"...AS WERE THE SECOND TWO..."

"THE FOURTH DID NOT EVEN HEAR ME TURN THE CORNER. I LEFT HIM TO ENTER A DEAD END ... AND THEN RETRACED MY STEPS TO THE FIFTH."



"...AND THE EIGHTH..."



"THE NEXT TWO WERE SAMURAI..."



"...BEYOND WHICH AWAITED STILL ANOTHER PAIR..."



"...BEFORE THE--"



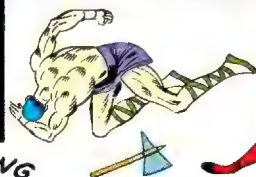
"--ELEVENTH."

"WHY DO I COUNT? IS DEATH NOW MEASURED ONLY IN NUMBERS AND NOT IN TERMS OF LOST LIFE?"

"I PAUSED THEN, REMEMBERING THAT I HAD NOT SLAIN THEM. AND, CONFUSED, I TURNED THE NEXT CORNER AND DESSA DNY WARD THROUGH THE PURPLE MAZE. FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT I HAD PASSED THE FINAL ASSASSIN."



"I WAS WRONG."

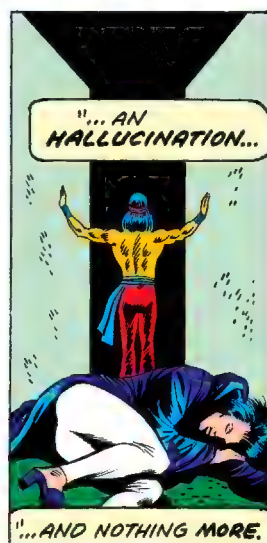
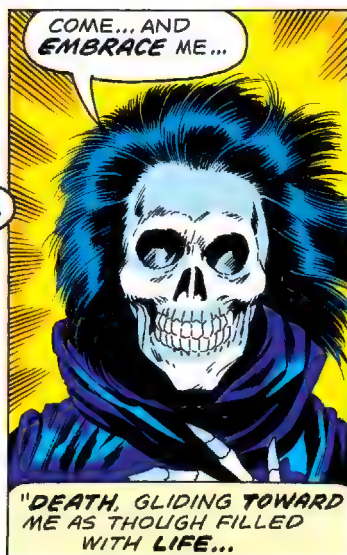


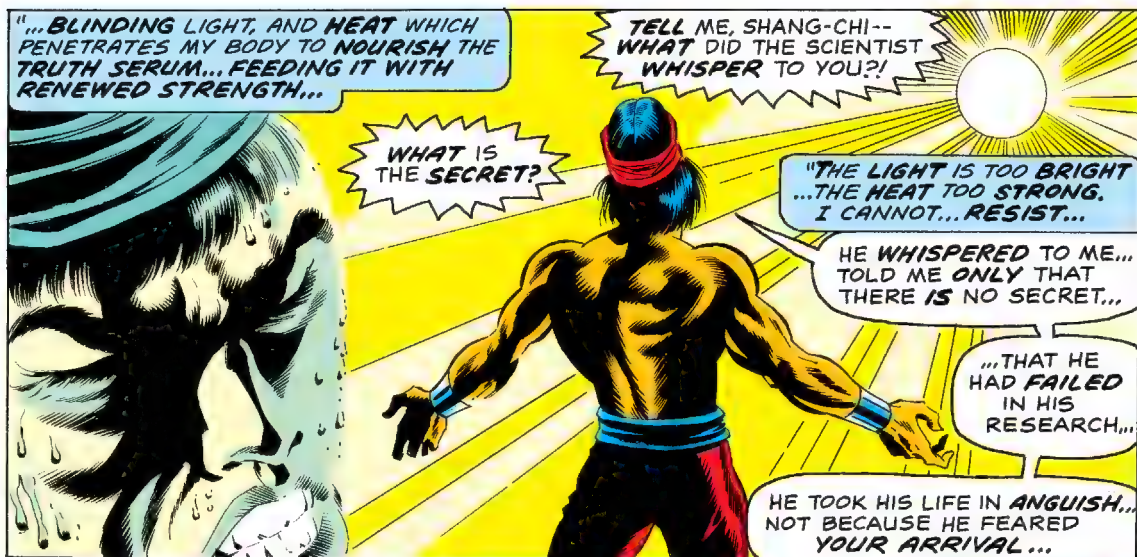
"AND NOW I TURN MORE CORNERS, SEARCHING FOR SANDY AND FINDING ONLY--"



"--STRIKE."







"...BLINDING LIGHT, AND HEAT WHICH PENETRATES MY BODY TO NOURISH THE TRUTH SERUM... FEEDING IT WITH RENEWED STRENGTH..."

TELL ME, SHANG-CHI--
WHAT DID THE SCIENTIST
WHISPER TO YOU?!

WHAT IS
THE SECRET?

"THE LIGHT IS TOO BRIGHT
...THE HEAT TOO STRONG.
I CANNOT... RESIST..."

HE WHISPERED TO ME...
TOLD ME ONLY THAT
THERE IS NO SECRET...

"...THAT HE
HAD FAILED
IN HIS
RESEARCH..."

HE TOOK HIS LIFE IN ANGUISH...
NOT BECAUSE HE FEARED
YOUR ARRIVAL...



A CHEAP LIE, SHANG-CHI. NO MAN WOULD DEVOTE AN ENTIRE LIFE TO A PROJECT WITHOUT SOME PROGRESS.

WHAT WAS THE
GOAL OF HIS
RESEARCH?

"THE LIGHTS HAVE DIED,
I SEE THAT I AM BACK IN
MY FATHER'S CHAMBER..."



"...THE SAME ROOM FROM WHICH I FELL INTO THE MAZE. MY MIND IS AGAIN MY OWN, BUT I MAY OPPOSE MY FATHER MOST EFFECTIVELY BY TELLING HIM THAT WHICH HE WISHES TO KNOW.

HIS GOAL WAS
SYNTHETIC
NOURISHMENT.

HE WISHED ONLY TO
FEED THE STARVING
OF THE WORLD.



WHAT?!!

HE WISHED
ONLY TO FEED
THE STARVING
OF THE WORLD.

I HAVE NOT
DEVOTED ALL THIS
TIME ONLY TO
LEARN THAT AN
OLD FOOL WASTED
HIS ENTIRE LIFE
TO REACH A NOBLE END!!



BUT IT IS SO, MY FATHER. I HAVE TOLD YOU THE SCIENTIST'S SECRET.

AND NOW YOU WILL TELL ME--WHERE IS HIS DAUGHTER? WHERE IS THE GIRL CALLED SANDY?

THE
GIRL--?!

SHE DIED IN
THE MAZE, YOU
FOOL!! YOU KILLED
HER YOURSELF--!



AND NOW YOU SHALL JOIN HER IN DEATH!

"THE SI-FAN RUSH FORWARD. I FORCE MYSELF TO FORGET MY FATHER'S WORDS..."

"...AND LISTEN, INSTEAD, TO THE EXPLOSIVE SOUNDS OF ASSAULT NOW ISSUING FROM A DIFFERENT SECTION OF THIS STRUCTURE.

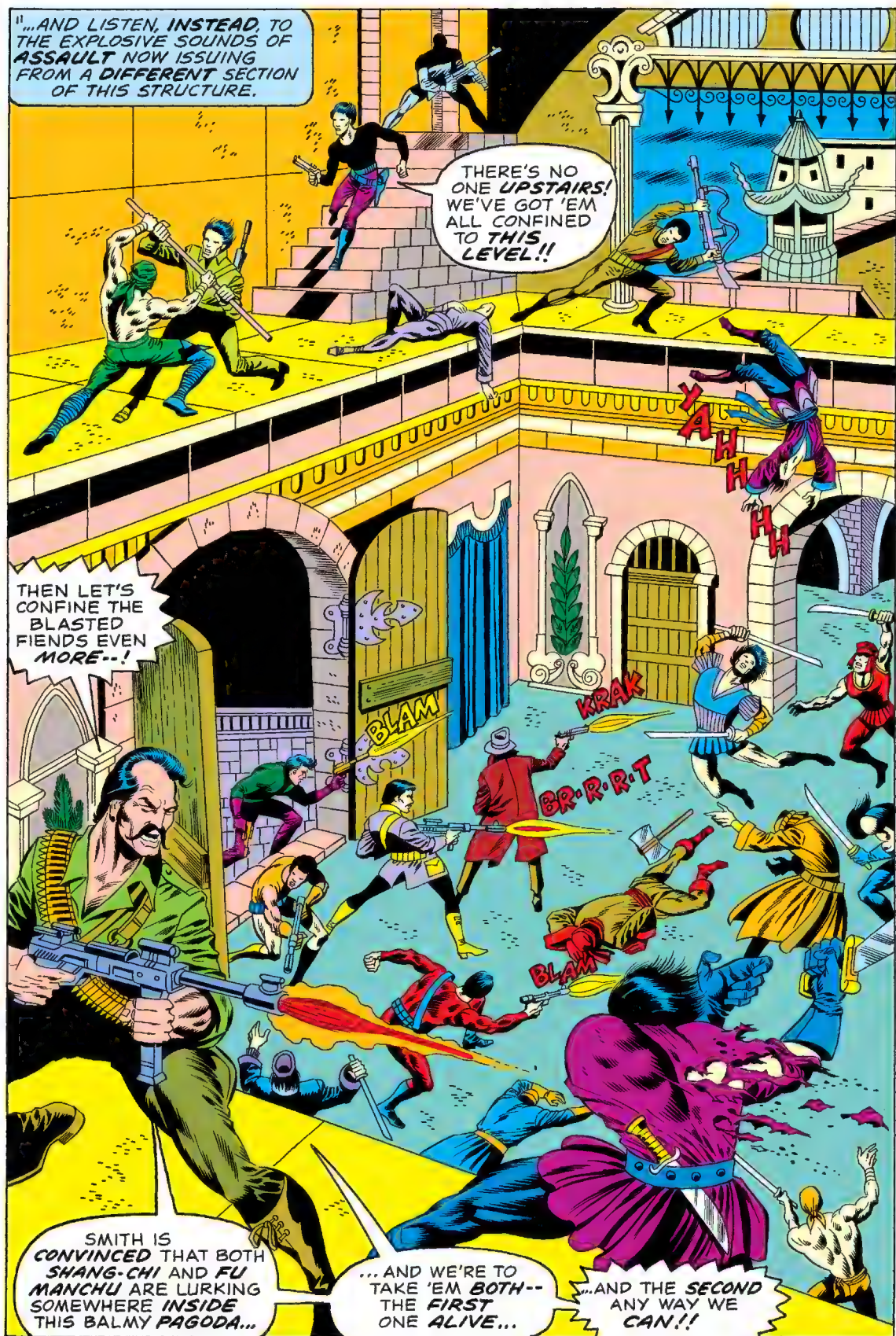
THERE'S NO ONE UPSTAIRS! WE'VE GOT 'EM ALL CONFINED TO THIS LEVEL!!

THEN LET'S CONFINE THE BLASTED FIENDS EVEN MORE--!

SMITH IS CONVINCED THAT BOTH SHANG-CHI AND FU MANCHU ARE LURKING SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS BALMY PAGODA...

... AND WE'RE TO TAKE 'EM BOTH-- THE FIRST ONE ALIVE...

...AND THE SECOND ANY WAY WE CAN!!



"THE TRUTH SERUM HAS FLED MY BODY. EXERTION, ENFORCED BY THE SI-FAN, HAS RELEASED NATURAL FLUIDS INTO MY BLOOD, FLUSHING THE DRUG AWAY..."

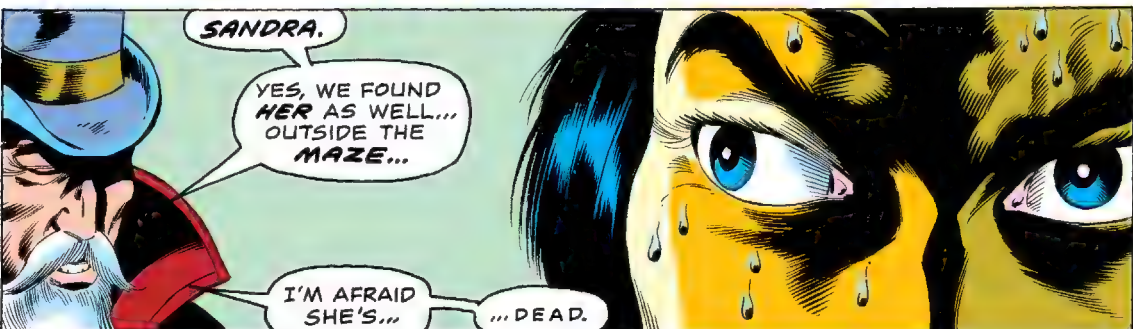


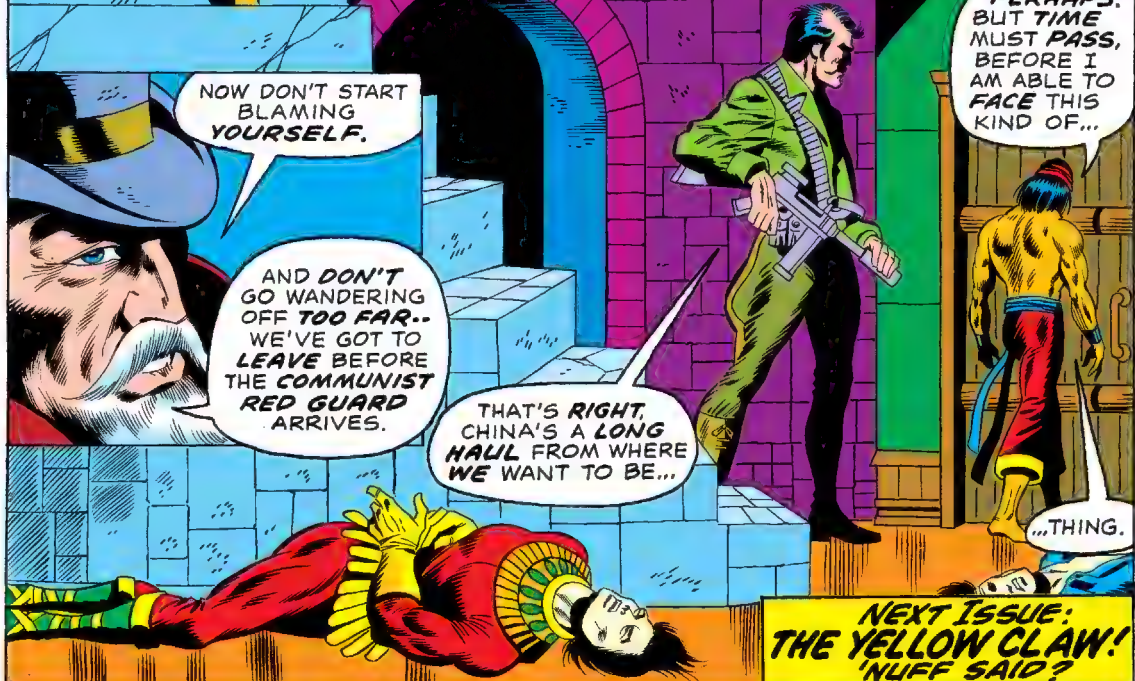
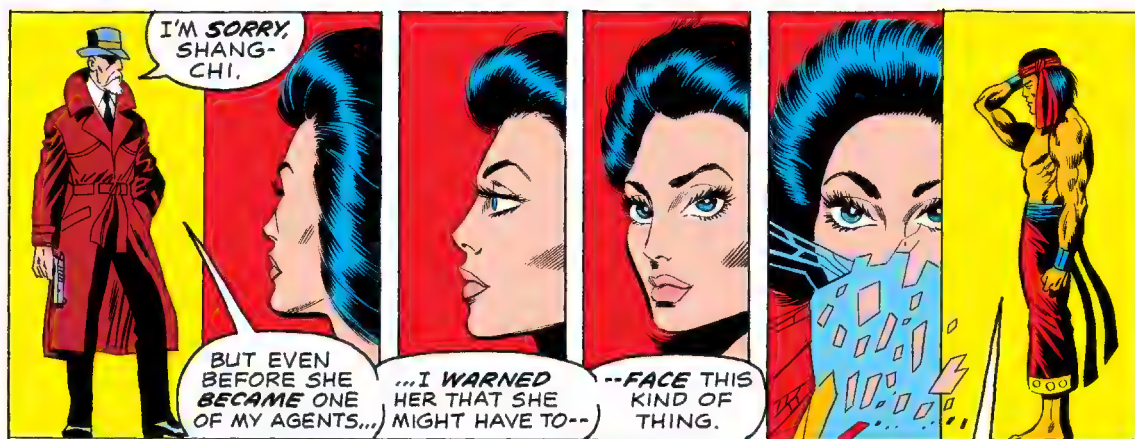
"STILL, DANGER FOLLOWS MY EVERY MOVEMENT..."

"...FOR THE ASSASSINS ARE SKILLED, AND MANY IN NUMBER..."



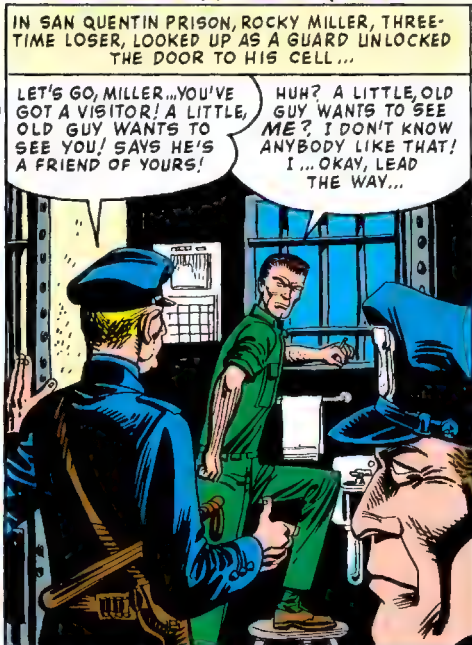
"BUT NOW, ABRUPTLY, I AM JOINED--"





USING AN OLD CURIO SHOP IN THE CHINATOWN SECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO AS A FRONT, AMERICA'S GREATEST MENACE SET UP HEADQUARTERS AND BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR A SELFISH CAMPAIGN OF SABOTAGE AND INTRIGUE... WITH THE ULTIMATE RULE OF THE WORLD AS HIS LONG-RANGE GOAL! READ NOW OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THAT CAMPAIGN...

THE YELLOW CLAW





GRAN'PA, IF YOU CAN SPRING ME FROM THIS JOINT, YOU GOT YOURSELF A DEAL...WHOEVER YOU ARE!

I AM KNOWN BY MANY AS **THE YELLOW CLAW**...



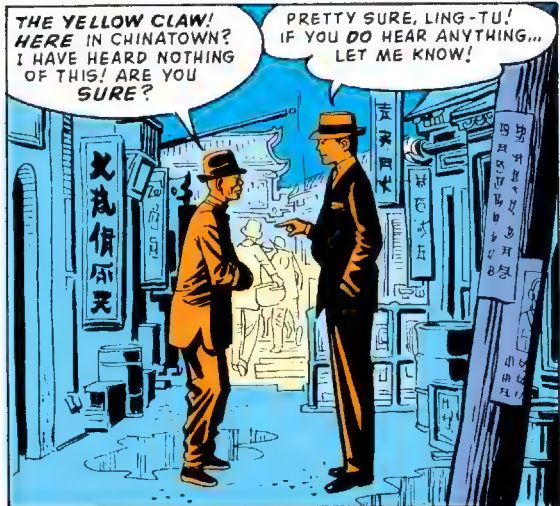
ARE YOU KIDDING? THE **YELLOW CLAW** IS SOME SORT OF LEGENDARY CHARACTER! WHEN I WAS IN THE CHIPS, I HAD A CHINESE HOUSEBOY WHO USED TO SOUND OFF ABOUT HIM! BUT HE NEVER EXISTED! HE...



YOU... YOU **ARE** THE **YELLOW CLAW**!

THE SECRET OF EFFECTIVE DISGUISE IS MOST HELPFUL, MR. MILLER! NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY... I HAVE LEFT A PACKAGE FOR YOU WITH THE WARDEN! IN IT IS A PACK OF CIGARETTES! TONIGHT... SMOKE THE CIGARETTE THAT LACKS THE BRAND NAME...

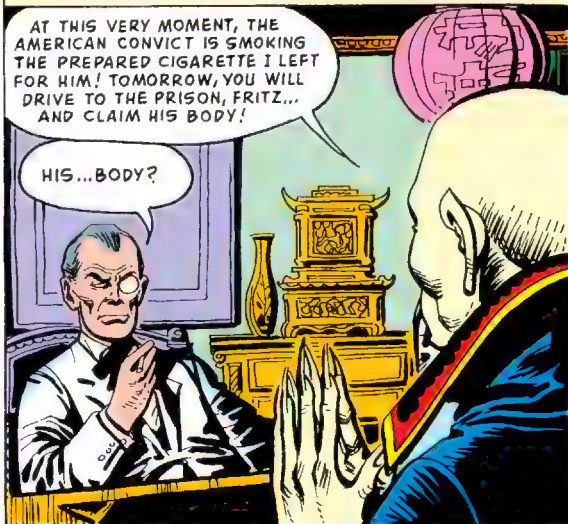
THAT NIGHT, IN SAN FRANCISCO, A YOUNG F.B.I. AGENT MOVED THRU FAMILIAR STREETS, CALLING ON OLD FRIENDS...



THE YELLOW CLAW! HERE IN CHINATOWN? I HAVE HEARD NOTHING OF THIS! ARE YOU **SURE**?

PRETTY SURE, LING-TU! IF YOU DO HEAR ANYTHING... LET ME KNOW!

WHILE, NEARBY, IN HIS CURIO SHOP HEADQUARTERS...



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE AMERICAN CONVICT IS SMOKING THE PREPARED CIGARETTE I LEFT FOR HIM! TOMORROW, YOU WILL DRIVE TO THE PRISON, FRITZ... AND CLAIM HIS BODY!

HIS...BODY?



THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE PRISON...

ALL RIGHT, MILLER! OUT OF BED AND ON YOUR FEET OR I'LL HAVE YOU ON THE ROCK PILE FOR THIS! HEY, MILLER... WAKE UP! SAY... THIS GUY IS **DEAD**!



AND LATER THAT DAY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU LEARNED OF MILLER'S DEATH, MR. VOLTSMANN... BUT IF YOU WANT TO CLAIM HIS BODY, YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT!

THANK YOU! AND NOW, IF YOU WILL SIGN THE NECESSARY PAPERS...

AS FRITZ WAS RETURNING TO SAN FRANCISCO WITH THE BODY OF ROCKY MILLER...

NO, I HAVE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT THE YELLOW CLAW, JIMMY... BUT SOMETHING ELSE HAS TROUBLED ME... MING-HOW, WHO USED TO OWN THE CURIO SHOP DOWN THE STREET, SOLD IT RECENTLY... AND NOW, HE HAS DISAPPEARED... WITHOUT A TRACE!

MAYBE THERE'S A CONNECTION, LANG-SU! I'LL DO A LITTLE CHECKING...

LATER, IN THE REAR OF MING-HOW'S OLD CURIO SHOP, THE YELLOW CLAW LABORED OVER AN ANCIENT ALCHEMIST'S FORMULA...

I HAF THE AMERICAN OUT IN THE TRUCK IN THE ALLEY, YELLOW CLAW!

VERY GOOD! BRING HIM IN, FRITZ! I'M ALMOST FINISHED...

ROCKY MILLER'S BODY WAS BROUGHT IN AND PROPPED ON A CHAIR...

THE DRUGGED CIGARETTE PUT THE AMERICAN INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION CLOSELY RESEMBLING DEATH! THIS ANTIDOTE WILL BRING HIM OUT OF IT!

THE CONTENTS OF THE FLASK WERE FORCED BETWEEN ROCKY MILLER'S LIPS...

AFTER A FEW MOMENTS, HIS EYELIDS FLUTTERED... THEN OPENED... HE LOOKED AROUND...

WHERE... WHERE AM I?

YOU ARE IN SAN FRANCISCO! I HAVE FINISHED MY PART OF OUR BARGAIN... NOW, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO BEGIN YOURS...

THE REVIVED CONVICT GLARED AT THE YELLOW CLAW...

...AND WHAT IF I WON'T! WHAT IF I REFUSE TO WORK FOR YOU?

YOU WILL WORK FOR ME, MR. MILLER! YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!

YELLOW CLAW! SOMEVUNN ISS OUT FRONT IN THE SHOP...

THE YELLOW CLAW APPROACHED THE DRAPERY AND PEERED OUT...

IT IS THAT F.B.I. AGENT... JIMMY WOO! GO OUT THERE, SUWAN... GET RID OF HIM!

JIMMY WOO TURNED FROM HIS BROWSING AS SUWAN GLIDED TOWARD HIM...

OH...H-HELLO! I AM LOOKING FOR A MAN NAMED MING-HOW... DOESN'T HE OWN THIS SHOP?

MING-HOW *DID* OWN THIS SHOP, BUT MY GRAND-UNCLE BOUGHT IT FROM HIM RECENTLY...



OH? YOUR GRAND-UNCLE IS A CURIO DEALER?

THAT IS RIGHT... AND I TAKE CARE OF THE SHOP WHEN HE IS RESTING! PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU?



NO, THANK YOU! IT WAS MING-HOW I HAD BUSINESS WITH! I'M SORRY...

PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT, SIR! COME IN AGAIN SOME TIME WHEN YOU ARE IN THE MARKET FOR CURIOS!



IN THE REAR OF THE CURIO SHOP, THE YELLOW CLAW TURNED FROM THE DRAPERY, SATISFIED...



GOOD! HE HAS LEFT! NOW, MR. MILLER...TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! IN TWENTY MINUTES, A MAN WILL LEAVE THE AMALGAMATED CHEMICAL COMPANY WITH A BRIEF-CASE! YOU WILL BRING THAT BRIEFCASE TO ME...

ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CURIO SHOP, JIMMY WOO WAITED IN THE SHADOWS...



A FEW MINUTES LATER, ROCKY MILLER EMERGED FROM THE CURIO SHOP...



THERE WERE NO OTHER CUSTOMERS IN THERE WITH ME! AND NONE HAVE GONE IN SINCE! THAT GUY MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE BACK! I THINK I'LL TAIL HIM...

AS MILLER MOVED UP THE NARROW WINDING STREET, JIMMY WOO SLIPPED FROM HIS HIDING PLACE AND BEGAN TO FOLLOW... UNWARE THAT DIRECTLY BEHIND HIM...



THAT YOUNG F.B.I. AGENT FOLLOWS ZE AMERICAN CONVICT! IT IS GOOT THING ZE CLAW SENT ME ALONG TO CHECK AND SEE THAT NOTHING GOES WRONG...

MILLER MOVED QUICKLY! OUT OF CHINATOWN...ACROSS BUSY STREETS ...TO THE AMALGAMATED CHEMICAL COMPANY BUILDING! NEXT TO IT, IN AN ALLEY, HE WAITED...AND FINALLY, A MAN EMERGED, CARRYING A BRIEFCASE...

HEY, THAT'S PIERSON...OF THE SECRET SERVICE! I RECOGNIZE HIM! AND THAT GUY FROM THE CURIO SHOP IS WAITING FOR HIM...



AS THE MAN WITH THE BRIEFCASE PASSED THE ALLEY, MILLER STRUCK...

THAT MUST BE SECRET GOVERNMENT INFO PIERSON IS CARRYING...AND THE GUY FROM THE CURIO SHOP WANTS IT! HE'S KNOCKED PIERSON COLD AND HE'S DRAGGING HIM INTO THAT ALLEY! TIME TO MAKE MY MOVE...



GUN DRAWN, JIMMY WOO CLOSED IN...

OKAY, BUDDY...DROP THAT BRIEFCASE AND RAISE YOUR HANDS! HUH?



BUT AS JIMMY APPROACHED THE ESCAPED CONVICT, HE NEVER NOTICED THE STEALTHY SHADOW BEHIND HIM...

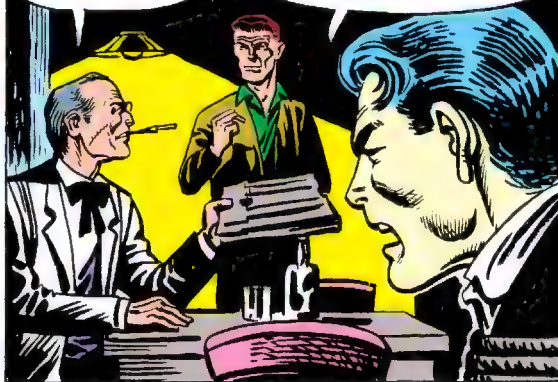
LUCKY THING I DECIDED TO FOLLOW YOU FROM THAT CURIO SHOP, MISTER! LOOKS LIKE I...



SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING WENT BLACK! THE YOUNG F.B.I. AGENT NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM...WHEN HE CAME TO, HE WAS IN SOME SORT OF CELLAR TIED TO A CHAIR...

HERE! BRING ZIS BRIEFCASE TO ZE YELLOW CLAW, MILLER! I WILL TAKE CARE OF ZIS MEDDLER...

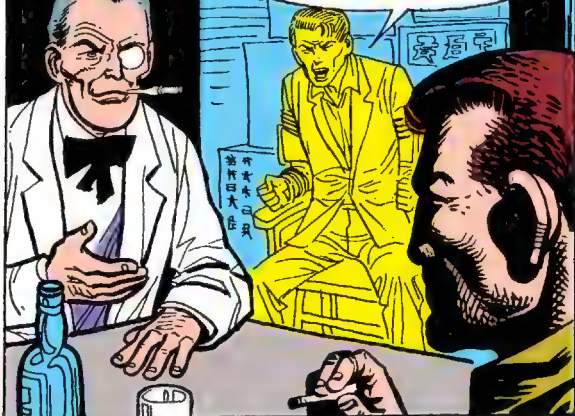
THE YELLOW CLAW?! HOLD IT, MILLER! DON'T DO IT! LISTEN TO ME... THAT BRIEFCASE CONTAINS SECRET GOVERNMENT FORMULAS!



THE CONVICT HESITATED...TURNED TO FRITZ...

IGNORE HIM, MILLER! GO QUICKLY!

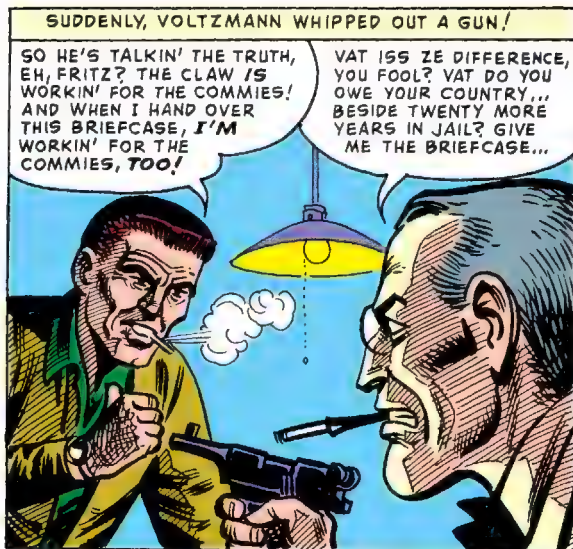
BELIEVE ME, MILLER! THIS YELLOW CLAW...THE GUY YOU'RE WORKING FOR...IS AN AGENT OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS! HE'S OUT TO CRIPPLE THIS COUNTRY'S DEFENSES!



SHUT UP, YOU! MILLER, GO BRING THAT BRIEFCASE TO THE CLAW! THAT ISS AN ORDER!

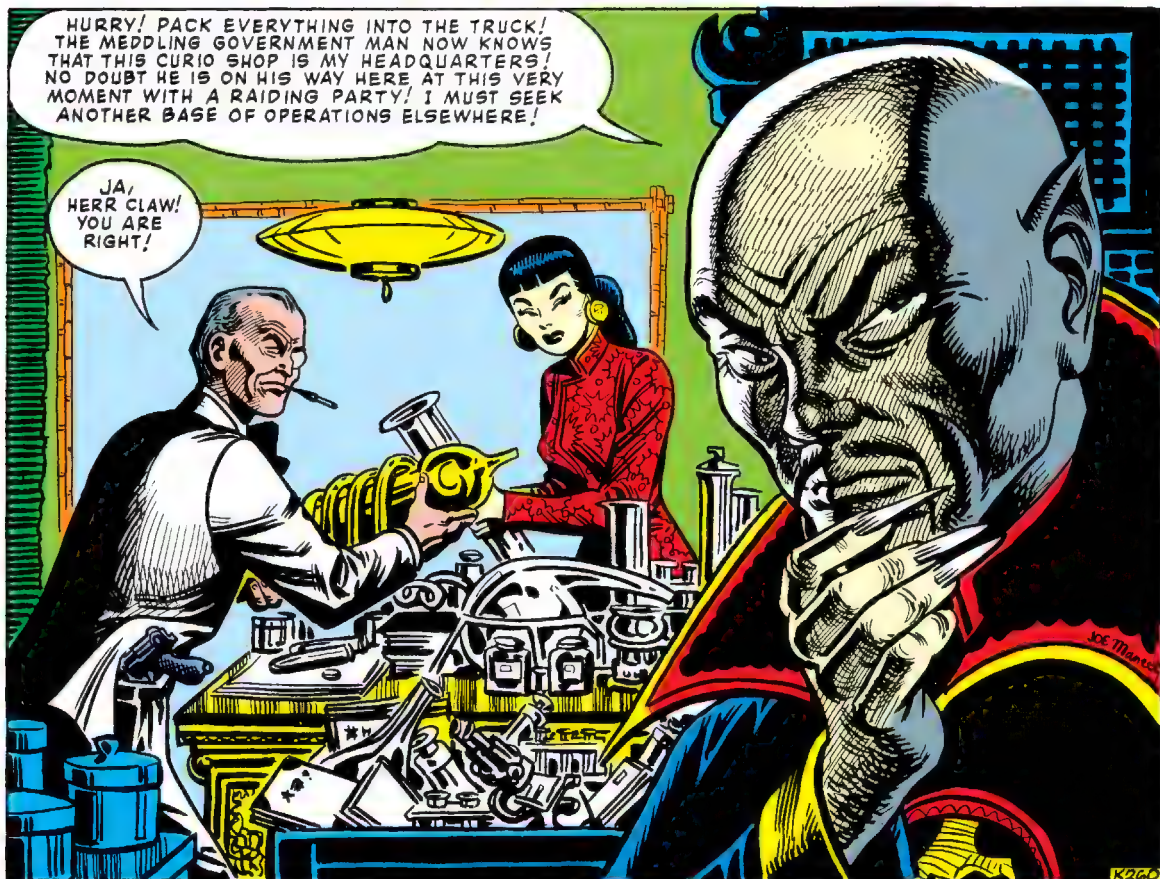
MILLER... YOU TURN THOSE PAPERS OVER TO THE YELLOW CLAW...AND YOU SELL YOUR COUNTRY DOWN THE RIVER!





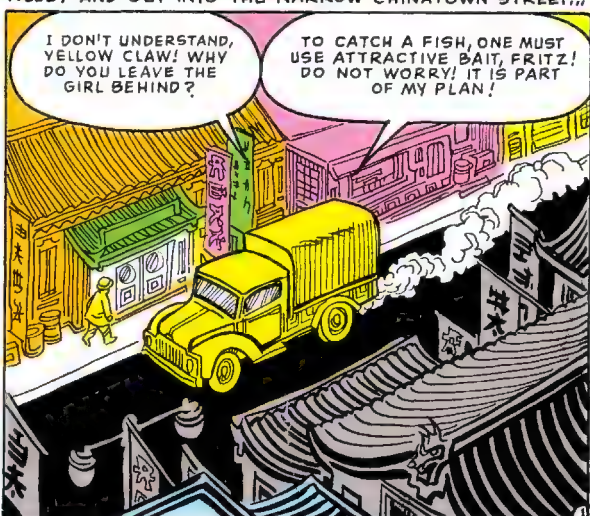
FOILED IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT TO CRIPPLE AMERICA'S DEFENSES BY THE TIMELY APPEARANCE OF JIMMY WOO, THE SINISTER ANCIENT ORIENTAL MYSTIC, WHO HAD COME OUT OF THE INTERIOR OF CHINA BENT ON A PROGRAM OF WORLD CONQUEST, ANGRILY PLANNED THE YOUNG F.B.I. AGENT'S DESTRUCTION!

THE YELLOW CLAW



IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE YELLOW CLAW'S ASSORTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND EQUIPMENT WAS PACKED ABOARD THE TRUCK...

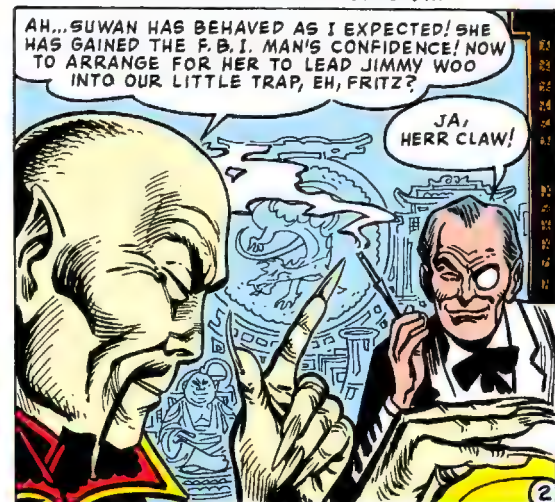
CONFUSED, SUWAN STOOD IN THE REAR DOOR OF THE CURIO SHOP AND WATCHED THE SMALL TRUCK ROLL DOWN THE ALLEY AND OUT INTO THE NARROW CHINATOWN STREET...



SOMETIME LATER, AS THE YELLOW CLAW HAD PREDICTED, THE CURIO SHOP WAS INVADIED BY JIMMY WOO AND THE F.B.I.!



IN HIS NEW HIDE-OUT ELSEWHERE IN SAN FRANCISCO'S CHINATOWN, THE YELLOW CLAW TURNED FROM HIS QUARTZ CRYSTAL AND SMILED...



MEANWHILE, ON THE WAY BACK TO F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS, PHIL KANE STUDIED JIMMY WOO...

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, A NERVOUS LITTLE CHINAMAN ENTERED SUWAN'S CURIO SHOP...

THE FURTIVE, LITTLE ORIENTAL HANDED SUWAN A PIECE OF PAPER AND SLIPPED AWAY... SUWAN STUDIED IT...



YOU DIDN'T FALL FOR THAT GAL'S SOB STORY, DID YOU, JIMMY?

NOT ALTOGETHER, PHIL! LET ME OUT AT THIS CORNER! I THINK I'LL DOUBLE BACK TO THE CURIO SHOP AND KEEP WATCH...JUST IN CASE...



YES, SIR? CAN I HELP YOU?

I...I BRING MESSAGE FROM YELLOW CLAW FOR YOU! HE WANT YOU LOCK UP SHOP... GO AT ONCE TO THIS ADDRESS HERE...



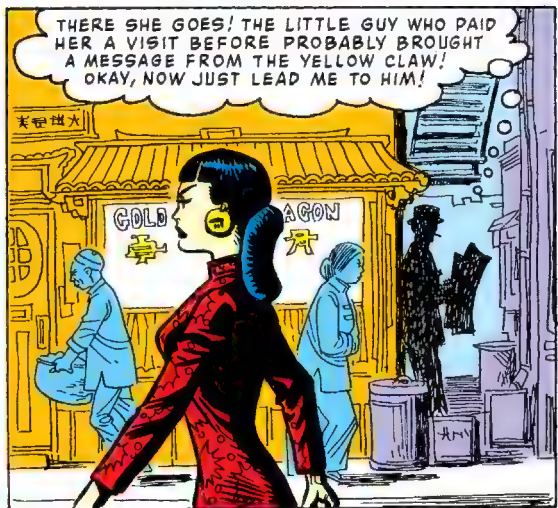
THE ADDRESS OF MY UNCLE'S NEW HEADQUARTERS! WHAT SHOULD I DO? IF I NOTIFY MR. WOO AT THE F.B.I., HE WILL ARREST MY UNCLE AND PUT HIM INTO PRISON!

SUWAN EYED THE TELEPHONE, TORN BY INDECISION...

RELUCTANTLY, SUWAN LOCKED UP THE CURIO SHOP... WHILE ACROSS THE STREET...



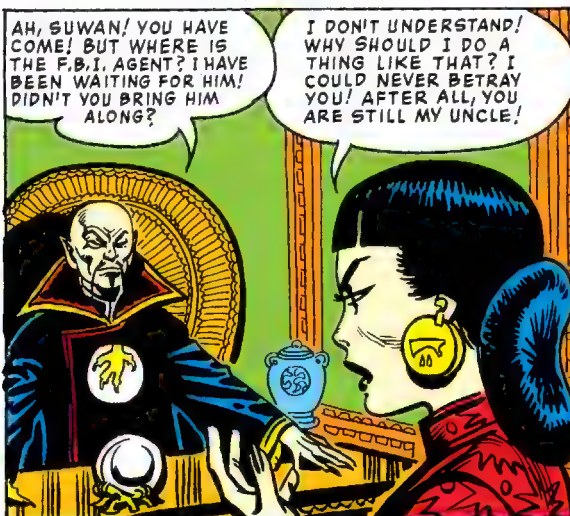
NO! I CANNOT DO IT! NO MATTER WHAT HE IS...THE YELLOW CLAW IS STILL MY UNCLE! I CANNOT BETRAY MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!



THERE SHE GOES! THE LITTLE GUY WHO PAID HER A VISIT BEFORE PROBABLY BROUGHT A MESSAGE FROM THE YELLOW CLAW! OKAY, NOW JUST LEAD ME TO HIM!

SUWAN MADE HER WAY THROUGH WINDING CHINATOWN STREETS, UNAWARE THAT JIMMY WOO FOLLOWED CLOSE BEHIND! FINALLY...

THE YELLOW CLAW'S GREEN EYES FLASHED IN THE LANTERNLIGHT AS HE STUDIED HIS GRAND-NIECE...



AH, SUWAN! YOU HAVE COME! BUT WHERE IS THE F.B.I. AGENT? I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR HIM! DIDN'T YOU BRING HIM ALONG?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY SHOULD I DO A THING LIKE THAT? I COULD NEVER BETRAY YOU! AFTER ALL, YOU ARE STILL MY UNCLE!



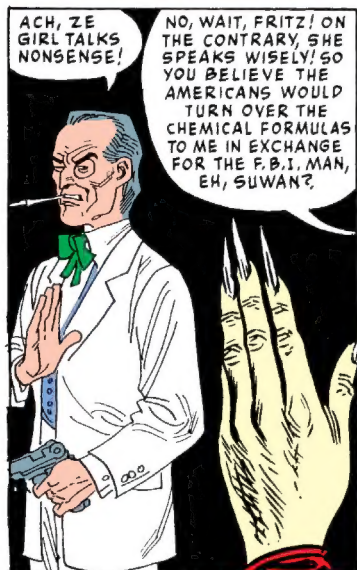
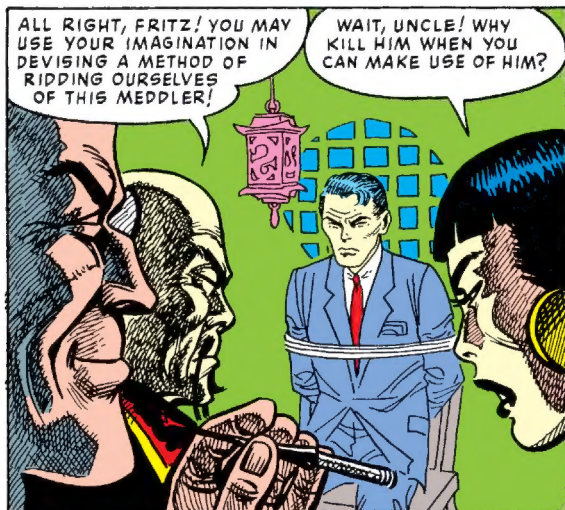
SO? MY APOLOGIES TO YOU, SUWAN! AND NOW, IF YOU WILL STAND ASIDE AND LET THE FOOLISH YOUNG F.B.I. AGENT EXPLODE THROUGH THAT DOOR!

THE...F.B.I. AGENT?

SUDDENLY, WITH A SPLINTERING CRASH, THE DOOR TO THE YELLOW CLAW'S HIDE-OUT WAS KICKED OPEN AND JIMMY WOO BURST IN!



MINUTES LATER, THE TRAPPED F.B.I. AGENT WAS TIED SECURELY IN A CHAIR...



SOMETIME LATER, SUWAN AND FRITZ ARRIVED AT THE NEW WATERFRONT HIDE-OUT WHERE THE YELLOW CLAW HAD MOVED WITH HIS CAPTIVE...



WE WERE NOT FOLLOWED HERE! WHERE IS THE F.B.I. MAN?

IN THE NEXT ROOM! WELL, SUWAN, WHAT HAVE YOU TO REPORT?

THEY HAVE AGREED TO OUR TERMS, UNCLE! THEY WILL TURN OVER THE SECRET CHEMICAL FORMULAS IN EXCHANGE FOR MR. WOO!



AH, SO! AND JUST WHEN AND HOW WILL THIS EXCHANGE TAKE PLACE?

IN HALF AN HOUR, AT PIER 57! THEY PROMISE A PEACEFUL EXCHANGE! THEY WANT WOO BACK AT ANY COST!



GOOD! FRITZ, GET THE TRUCK STARTED! THEN COME BACK AND GET THE F.B.I. MAN! PUT THIS HOOD OVER HIS HEAD, SO HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEAD THEM BACK HERE!

LET ME HAVE THE HOOD, UNCLE! I'LL DO THAT!

AS FRITZ LEFT TO GET THE TRUCK STARTED, SUWAN TOOK THE HOOD AND ENTERED THE ROOM WHERE THE F.B.I. AGENT WAS TIED UP...



A FINE FRIEND YOU TURNED OUT TO BE! I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T HAVING ANY PART OF YOUR GRAND-UNCLE'S SABOTAGE EFFORTS?

I'M NOT! TRUST ME, JIMMY WOO! AND LISTEN CAREFULLY! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!



THE TRUCK IS READY, YELLOW CLAW!

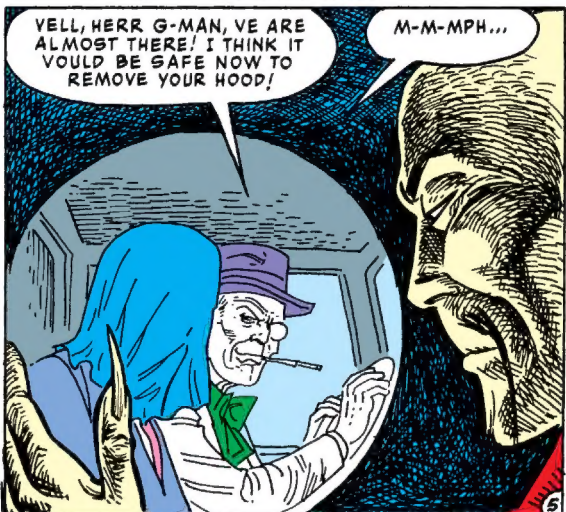
GOOD! NOW REMOVE THE MEDDLER FROM THE NEXT ROOM AND PLACE HIM ON THE TRUCK! MAKE SURE THAT SUWAN HAS PUT THE HOOD ON HIM! DRIVE TO PIER 57, MAKE THE EXCHANGE AS ARRANGED! MAKE SURE YOU GET THE FORMULAS...

FRITZ MOVED INTO THE ROOM WHERE JIMMY WOO WAS TIED UP AND ORDERED THE HOODED FIGURE TO HIS FEET...



ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET GOING! YOUR FRIENDS ARE WAITING TO BUY YOU BACK FROM US...

BE ON YOUR GUARD, FRITZ! IF ANYTHING SHOULD GO WRONG, SHOOT THE MEDDLING AMERICAN!



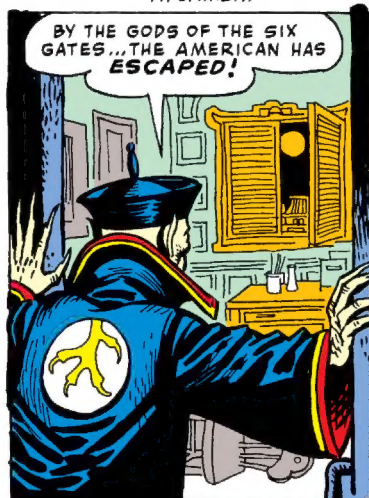
YELL, HERR G-MAN, VE ARE ALMOST THERE! I THINK IT WOULD BE SAFE NOW TO REMOVE YOUR HOOD!

M-M-MPH...

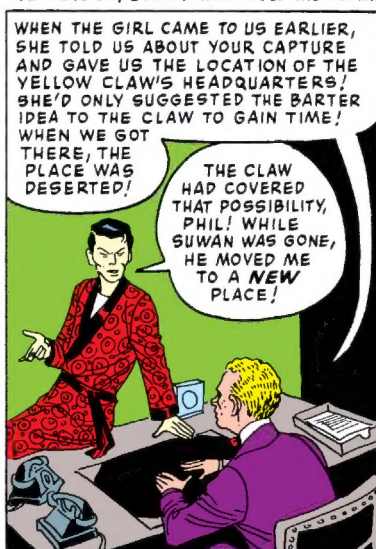
FRITZ REACHED OVER AND LIFTED THE HOOD FROM THE TRUSSED UP FIGURE AT HIS SIDE. FOR A MOMENT HE STARED AT IT... THEN CRIED OUT IN SHOCKED DISMAY...



IN HIS WATERFRONT HIDE-OUT, THE YELLOW CLAW SPRANG FROM HIS QUARTZ CRYSTAL, AND DARTED TO THE BACK ROOM, HIS GREEN EYES AFLAME...



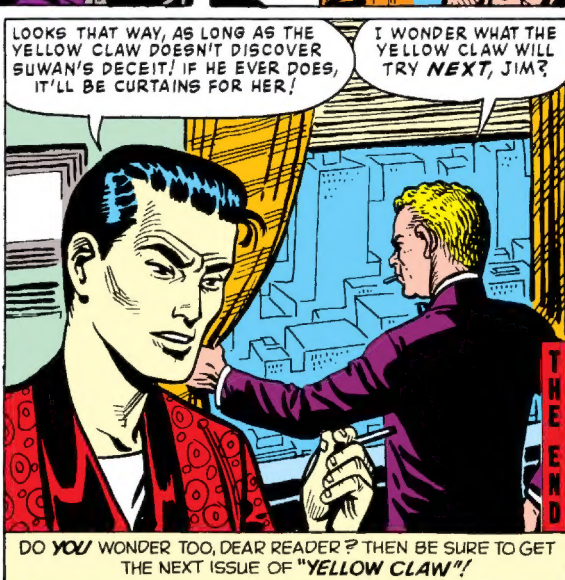
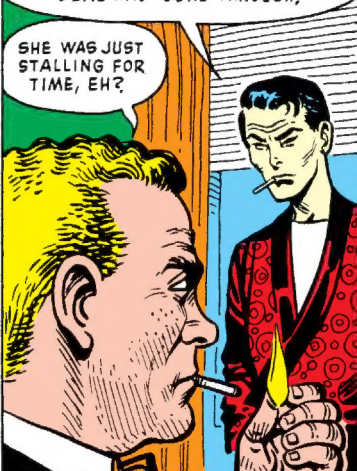
IN THE F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO, JIMMY WOO TOLD HIS STORY...



THE AMAZED CONCENTRATION CAMP EX-COMMANDANT BROUGHT HIS TRUCK TO A SCREAMING HALT AND QUICKLY REMOVED SUWAN'S GAG...



WHEN FRITZ BROUGHT SUWAN TO THE NEW HIDE-OUT, WE REALIZED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE... AND FAST! SO SHE PRETENDED THAT THE BARTER DEAL HAD GONE THROUGH!



DO YOU WONDER TOO, DEAR READER? THEN BE SURE TO GET THE NEXT ISSUE OF "YELLOW CLAW"!

Shadowcat

